AN

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

AND

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

OF

LOUISIANA,

AND

WEST-FLORIDA,

COMPREHENDING THE

RIVER MISSISSIPPI WITH ITS PRINCIPAL BRANCHES AND SETTLEMENTS, AND THE RIVERS PEARL, PASCAGOULA, MOBILLE, PERDIDO, ESCAMBIA, CHACTA-HATCHA, &c.

THE

CLIMATE, SOIL, AND PRODUCE

WHETHER

ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, OR MINERAL;

WITH

Directions for Sailing into all the Bays, Lakes, Harbours and Rivers on the North Side of the Gulf of Mexico, and for Navigating between the Islands situated along that Coast, and ascending the Mississippi River.

BY THOMAS HUTCHINS,
GEOGRAPHER TO THE UNITED STATES.

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THE

PREFACE.

SEVERAL years residence in the Province of West-Florida, during which I entered into a minute examination of its coasts, harbours, lakes, and rivers, having made me perfectly acquainted with their situation, bearings, soundings, and every particular requisite to be known by Navigators, for their benefit I am induced to make my observations public. The expence and trouble at which this knowledge has been acquired, are far from inconsiderable; however, if the accurate surveys and descriptions I am thereby enabled to give, prove instructive and beneficial to my country, I shall esteem myself amply repaid.

It may be proper to observe that I have had the assistance of the remarks and surveys, so far as relates to the mouths of the Mississippi and the coast and soundings of West-Florida, of the late ingenious Mr. George Gauld, *a Gentleman who was employed by the Lords of the British Admiralty for the express purpose of making an accurate chart of the abovementioned places.*

I have also had recourse, in describing some parts of the Mississippi, to the publication of Captain Pitman, *who resided many years on that river, and was well acquainted with the country through which it flows.*

A particular detail of the advantages that may in time accrue to the possessors of West-Florida, with a complete description of the country and its productions, would

would not make an improper addition to the following work; but as the more immediate purpose of it is to point out the dangers of its coasts to the approaching mariner, I shall confine the cursory remarks I make on those heads, to such particulars only as are most deserving of notice.

Before I enter on the prosecution of my design, I would just observe, that I shall be more solicitous to make the result of my investigations useful than amusing, I shall endeavour rather to be clear and intelligible than study to deliver myself in florid language.

AN
HISTORICAL
AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL
DESCRIPTION, &c.

A DESCRIPTION of the river Miſſiſſippi and the country through which it flows, called Louiſiana, would have been the firſt objects ſubmitted to the reader's attention; were it not humbly preſumed that a ſhort account of the diſcovery of the river Miſſiſſippi, and a view of the different States to which its banks have been ſubjected are judged neceſſary, before their deſcription is attempted.

Diſcovery of the Miſſiſſippi.

The merit of firſt diſcovering the river Miſſiſſippi, (or in the language of the natives, Meſchaſipi, for the general appellation of the former is a corruption of the latter) according to Lewis Hennepin's account publiſhed in London 1698, is due to the Sieur la Salle, who diſcovered that river in 1682. It ſeems that father Hennepin forgot that this river was previouſly diſcovered by Ferdinand de Soto in 1541, alſo by Col. Wood in 1654, and by Captain Bolt in 1670. Monſieur de la Salle was the firſt who traverſed that river. In the ſpring of the ſame year 1682, he paſſed down to the mouths of the Miſſiſſippi; he afterwards remounted that river, and returned to Canada in the month of October following, from whence he took his paſſage to France, where he gave ſo flattering an account of the advantages that would certainly accrue from the ſettling a colony in thoſe parts, that a company was formed for carrying thoſe deſigns into execution, with a ſquadron conſiſting of four veſſels; having

Arrival and murder of la Salle.

having on board a ſufficient number of perſons, and all kinds of goods and proviſions, neceſſary for the ſervice of the new colony, which he propoſed to fix at or near the mouth of the Miſſiſſippi. But having ſailed beyond the mouth of the river, he attempted to fix a colony at the bay of St. Bernard, where he arrived the 18th of February 1684, about 100 leagues weſtward of the Miſſiſſippi. There his men underwent ſuch hardſhips that moſt of them periſhed miſerably. The leader, animated with an ardent deſire of extending his diſcoveries, made various excurſions with ſuch of them who were able to travel; but on the 19th of March 1687, two of his men villainouſly murdered him, when exploring the interior parts of the country, in ſearch of mines, and of the tract which led to thoſe of St. Barbe in New Mexico.

Ibberville's Arrival.

About ſeven years after, Monſ. Ibberville, a reſpectable officer in the French navy, undertook to execute whatever La Salle had promiſed; and his reputation being eſtabliſhed already, the court intruſted him with the conduct of the project. He carried his people very ſafely to the mouth of the great river, and there laid the foundation of the firſt colony the French ever had in the Miſſiſſippi. He took care to provide them with every thing neceſſary for their ſubſiſtance, and obliged them to erect a fort, for their defence againſt the Indians. This being done, he returned to France in order to obtain ſupplies.

The ſucceſs of his voyage made him extremely welcome at court, and he was ſoon in a condition to put to ſea again. His ſecond voyage was as fortunate as the firſt; but very unluckily for his colony, he died whilſt he was preparing for the third. The deſign might have been abandoned, had not Crozat, a private man of an immenſe fortune, undertaken its ſupport at his own expence. In 1712, the King gave him Louiſiana. Thus Lewis imitated the Pope, who

Louiſiana granted to Crozat.

who divided between the kings of Spain and Portugal the territories of America, where the holy ſee had not one inch of ground.

In this grant the bounds are fixed by the Illinois river and the lake of that name on the North; by Carolina on the Eaſt, the gulph of Mexico on the South, and New Mexico on the Weſt. As to Canada, or New France, the French court would ſcarcely admit it had any other northern boundary than the Pole. The avidity of Great Britain was equal, but France having been unfortunate in the war of 1710, the northern boundary of Canada was fixed by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713. It aſſigns New Britain and Hudſon's Bay, on the North of Canada, to Great Britain; and commiſſioners afterwards on both ſides aſcertained the limits by an imaginary line, running from a cape or promontory in New Britain to the Atlantic ocean, in 58 degrees 30 minutes North latitude, thence South-weſt to the lake Miſgoſink or Miſtaſim; from thence farther South-weſt directly to the latitude of 49 degrees. All the lands to the North of the imaginary line, being aſſigned to Great Britain; and all ſouthward of that line, as far as the river of St. Laurence, to the French. Theſe were at that time the true limits of Louiſiana and Canada, Crozat's grant not ſubſiſting long after the death of Lewis XIV.

Bounds of Louiſiana.

Limits of Louiſiana and Canada by the treaty of Utrecht.

In order to have ſome plauſible pretence for ſetting on foot a project for changing the face of public affairs in France, this ſettlement was thought the moſt convenient; and therefore all imaginable pains were taken to repreſent it as a paradiſe, and place from whence inexhauſtible riches might be derived, provided due encouragement could be obtained from government. For this purpoſe it was thought requiſite that a new company ſhould be erected, to make way for which Mr. Crozat was to reſign his grant; which he did accordingly.

Crozat's grant vacated.

This

This occaſioned the noiſe that was made about the Miſſiſſippi, not in France only, but throughout all Europe, which was filled with romantic ſtories of the vaſt fruitfulneſs of the banks of this great river, and the incredible wealth that was likely to flow from thence; and thoſe accounts, though true in part, in the end proved ruinous to many.

Bounds of Louiſiana before the peace of 1762.

Before the treaty of peace in 1762, Louiſiana, or the ſouthern part of New France, extended in the French maps from the gulph of Mexico, in about 29 degrees, to near 45 degrees of North latitude, on the Weſt of the Miſſiſſippi, and to near 39 degrees on its eaſtern bank. Its boundaries were Canada on the North; New York, Pennſylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and the North-weſt part of the eaſternmoſt peninſula of Florida, on the Eaſt; the Gulf of Mexico on the South; and laſtly the kingdom of New Mexico on the Weſt.

Abſurd claims.

The European ſtates having obſerved that kings and republicks claimed the ſovereignty of every tract which had been ſeen, and were pretended to have been diſcovered by navigators ſailing under their flags, their geographers were not permitted to publiſh maps which might have contradicted ſuch wild claims. This was the abſurdity of former days. But political circumſtances often emboldened pretenders to urge their chimerical rights; and their no leſs chimerical opponents then yielded what they had no better right to cede. But the abſurd recognition of ſuch abſurd pretenſions is but a temporary compliance. It ever did and ever will ſow the ſeeds of implacable animoſities and contentions, until pre-occupancy and cultivation, the true teſts of lawful poſſeſſion, ſhall have remedied the former invalidity of the claim.

Both ſides of the Miſſiſſippi continued under the dominion of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty till the peace of 1762, when the eaſtern ſide was ceded to the king of Great

Great Britain by the 7th article of the definitive treaty, in the following words. "In order to re-eſtabliſh peace on ſolid and durable foundations, and to remove for ever all ſubject of diſpute with regard to the limits of the Britiſh and French territories on the continent of America, it is agreed, that for the future, the confines between the dominions of his Britannic Majeſty, in that part of the world, ſhall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn along the middle of the river Miſſiſſippi, from its ſource to the river Iberville, and from thence, by a line drawn along the middle of this river, and the Lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain, to the ſea; and for this purpoſe the moſt Chriſtian King cedes in full right, and guaranties to his Britannic Majeſty, the river and port of the Mobille, and every thing which he poſſeſſes, or ought to poſſeſs, on the left ſide of the river Miſſiſſippi, except the town of New Orleans, and the iſland in which it is ſituated, which ſhall remain to France; provided that the navigation of the river Miſſiſſippi ſhall be equally free, as well to the ſubjects of Great Britain, as to thoſe of France, in its whole length, from its ſource to the ſea, and expreſly that part which is between the ſaid iſland of New Orleans, and the right bank of that river, as well as the paſſage both in and out of its mouth: it is further ſtipulated that the veſſels belonging to the ſubjects of either nation, ſhall not be ſtopped, viſited, or ſubjected to the payment of any duty whatſoever. The ſtipulations inſerted in the 4th article, in favour of the inhabitants of Canada, ſhall alſo take place with regard to the inhabitants of the countries ceded by this article."

Diviſion line between the French and Engliſh in 1762.

In the year 1762, and the day before the preliminary articles to the peace were ſigned, his Chriſtian Majeſty ceded to Spain all his territories on the weſtern ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, together with the town of

The ceſſion of his Chriſtian Majeſty to Spain.

New Orleans, and the peninſula in which it is ſituated on the eaſtern bank. But the inhabitants of Louiſiana were ignorant of this ceſſion before the year 1764, when Mr. D'Abbadie, then governor, publiſhed the king's letter to him on that ſubject, mentioning the date of the ceſſion, and containing a declaration that he had ſtipulated with Spain that the French laws and uſages ſhould not be altered.

Bounds by the Definitive Treaty of 1783.

The definitive treaty, between Great-Britain and the United States of America, ſigned at Paris the 3d day of September 1783, runs as follows:

"ARTICLE 1. His Britannic Majeſty acknowledges the ſaid United States, viz. New-Hampſhire, Maſſachuſetts-Bay, Rhode-Iſland and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jerſey, Pennſylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, to be free, ſovereign, and independent ſtates; that he treats with them as ſuch, and for himſelf, his heirs and ſucceſſors, relinquiſhes all claims to the government, property, and territorial rights of the ſame, and every part thereof.

"ART. 2. And that all diſputes which might ariſe in future, on the ſubject of the boundaries of the ſaid United States, may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are and ſhall be their boundaries, viz. From the North-weſt angle of Nova-Scotia, viz. that angle which is formed by a line drawn due North from the ſource of St. Croix river to the Highlands, along the ſaid Highlands, which divide thoſe rivers that empty themſelves into the river St. Laurence from thoſe which fall into the Atlantic ocean, to the North-weſtermoſt head of Connecticut river; thence down along the middle of that river to the forty-fifth degree of North latitude; from thence by a line due Weſt on ſaid latitude, until it ſtrikes the river Irriquois or Cataraqui; thence along the

the middle of the ſaid river into Lake Ontario; through the middle of the ſaid lake until it ſtrikes the communication by water between that lake and Lake Erie; thence along the middle of ſaid communication into Lake Erie, through the middle of ſaid lake, until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and Lake Huron, thence through the middle of ſaid lake to the water communication between that lake and Lake Superior; thence through Lake Superior, northward of the Iſles Royal and Phelipeaux to the Long Lake; thence through the middle of ſaid Long Lake and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the ſaid Lake of the Woods, thence through the ſaid Lake to the moſt North-weſtern point thereof, and from thence on a due Weſt courſe to the river Miſſiſſippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the ſaid river Miſſiſſippi; thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the ſaid river Miſſiſſippi until it ſhall interſect the northernmoſt part of the thirty-firſt degree of North latitude. South, by a line to be drawn due Eaſt from the determination of the line laſt mentioned in the latitude of thirty-one degrees North of the Equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola or Catanouche: thence along the middle thereof to its junction with the Flint-River: thence ſtraight to the head of St. Mary's River: and thence down along the middle of St. Mary's River to the Atlantic ocean: Eaſt, by a line to be drawn along the middle of the River St. Croix, from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy to its ſource, and from its ſource directly North to the aforeſaid Highlands which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic ocean from thoſe which fall into the River St. Laurence, comprehending all iſlands within twenty leagues of any part of the ſhores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due Eaſt from the points where the aforeſaid

boundaries

boundaries between Nova-Scotia on the one part, and Eaſt-Florida on the other, ſhall reſpectively touch the Bay of Fundy and the Atlantic ocean, excepting ſuch iſlands as now are or heretofore have been within the limits of the ſaid province of Nova-Scotia.

" ART. 8. The navigation of the river Miſſiſſippi, from its ſource to the ocean, ſhall for ever remain free and open to the ſubjects of Great Britain, and the citizens of the United States."

Having mentioned all the boundaries that were at different periods aſſigned to Louiſiana, the conduct of the Spaniards on poſſeſſing themſelves of that colony, is to be conſidered next in courſe.

Arrival of Don Ulloa at New Orleans with ſoldiers.

Don Antonio Ulloa arrived at New Orleans about the middle of the year 1766, but deferred to take poſſeſſion of the government of the colony in his Catholic Majeſty's name, until he had received ſpecial orders to that effect.

In the beginning of the year 1767, two thouſand Spaniſh ſoldiers were ſent from the Havanna, but he did not then take poſſeſſion of the country. He ſent however about ſixty of theſe troops to erect two forts, one oppoſite to the Britiſh fort, named Bute, on the mouth of the Ibberville, and the other on the weſtern ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, a little below the Natchez, where a detachment of Britiſh troops had taken poſt; another party was ſent in the autumn of 1767 to build a fort at the mouth of the river Miſſouri; but the commandant had poſitive orders not to interfere with the civil government of the Illinois country, where Monſ. de Saint Ange the French commandant continued to command with about twenty French ſoldiers. Don Antonio Ulloa, without taking poſſeſſion in his Catholic Majeſty's name, and conſequently without authority from France or Spain, eſtabliſhed monopolies, reſtricted commerce, and committed ſeveral abuſes, which rendered him odious

to

to the coloniſts. At laſt, on the 29th of October 1768, the council iſſued a decree to oblige him and the principal Spaniſh officers to leave the province in November following, notwithſtanding M. Aubry's remonſtrances, and the proteſt he made againſt the edict of the council.

Spaniards obliged to depart from Louiſiana.

Don Ulloa's conduct had rendered him the more obnoxious, as, from the letter written by the king of France, acquainting Mr. D'Abbadie with the ceſſion he had made to Spain, it appeared that the two kings had agreed, that Louiſiana ſhould retain her laws, privileges and cuſtoms. The French, nay the Spaniards themſelves, all blamed Mr. Aubry's acquieſence; for every one was ſenſible that the king of France never would have directed him to treat Don Ulloa with an obſequiouſneſs which degraded royal authority and the French nation; and that his inſtructions could, at moſt, authoriſe Mr. Aubry to follow that officer's advice, until the government of Louiſiana ſhould be delivered to Spain. Whatever entreaties had been uſed to perſuade Don Ulloa to take poſſeſſion, and by that meaſure render the exerciſe of his authority lawful, he evaded, but did not ceaſe to oppreſs; ſo that he loſt the eſteem which he had acquired by the publication of his voyages; and the coloniſts having been informed of the ſeverity with which he had governed the city of Quito in Peru, he was only conſidered as a tyrant, whoſe ſole merit was to be learned in the mathematics.

Don Ulloa obnoxious to the people.

The ſuperior council, guided by the Intendant and the Attorney General, having threatened him with a proſecution, he declared that, at the Balize, Mr. Aubry had privately delivered to him the command of the colony. As none could conceive that a clandeſtine poſſeſſion ought to authoriſe the public exerciſe of ſovereign power, Ulloa's declaration was judged an artifice of the groſſeſt texture; and Mr. Aubry, who

Threatened with a proſecution.

who affirmed the declaration to be true, was not believed. It made him fall into contempt, and emboldened the leaders of the party which oppoſed him. Theſe increaſed the doubts of the public relative to the ceſſion, and ſerved to convince every one, that the Spaniards did not ſeriouſly intend taking poſſeſſion :--- " The ceſſion," ſaid they, " was made in 1762, the " day before the preliminary articles of peace were " ſigned : near two years elapſed before it was firſt " known by the king's letter to Mr. D'Abbadie : " more than another year paſſed before the arrival of " Don Ulloa, who has been above two years in the " country and did not yet take poſſeſſion." If the reflections occaſioned by theſe circumſtances put together ; if the conjectures ſcattered in the Engliſh news-papers, or by the Engliſh who came into the country, led the inhabitants to think that the ceſſion was fictitious, and a ſtate manœuvre, their fears were at the ſame time quieted, ſince they did not apprehend thoſe evils which the change of ſovereignty makes almoſt unavoidable, even when the new government is milder and more favourable. On the other hand, their indignation was the greater againſt Don Ulloa, who abuſed the reaſons of ſtate that were ſuppoſed to be the cauſe of his having been ſent to Louiſiana ; who availed himſelf of Mr. Aubry's imbecility, to eſtabliſh a ſpecies of deſpotiſm, the more intolerant, as it ſhocked the manners of the French nation.

Doubts of the public reſpecting his conduct.

To put a ſtop to this tyranny, it would have been ſufficient to commence, with circumſpection, a juridical proſecution againſt him, and inform the miniſtry of the proceedings. But the council began by iſſuing a decree for expelling him and the Spaniards. To reduce the people to the neceſſity of ſupporting that violence, the leaders excited them to offend the king of Spain, from whom they had received no injury, and who doubtleſs would have puniſhed his officer,

Their want of circumſpection.

ficer, had the council proceeded with reſpect, and uſed lawful means to tranſmit to him their grievances. But, indignities were offered to the Spaniſh flag; a ſtep which rendered the inſult perſonal to the king of Spain, and made him overlook his envoy's miſdemeanors. This is not all: the council and the inhabitants ſent deputies to France, charged them to repreſent the grievances of the colony to their ſovereign, and ſupplicate him to retain the province. Their prayers were accompanied with proteſtations of devotion and loyalty. But before the departure of theſe deputies, the leaders of the faction ſeduced ſome members of the council, ſecretly ſent another deputation to Penſacola; and, without the people's knowledge, offered Louiſiana to Great Britain!

Indignities, &c. offered.

Deputies ſent to France—

The dread of being called to account, with which the crafty Don Ulloa had often threatened the Intendant and the Attorney General, that he might obſtruct their proſecutions, and ſilence them, relatively to his own conduct, was doubtleſs the ſole cauſe of that deſperate ſtep, the authors of which might have foreſeen the unſucceſsful iſſue, had they not been bereft of their ſenſes. It is true that there has been no public inquiry on that head; and therefore, the public has no juridical proof of this fact; but the characteriſtics of ſuch inquiry as was made, its terrifying apparatus, its reſult, and the concerted ſilence of thoſe by whom it was directed, ſufficiently confirm not only what is openly ſaid among the Engliſh, but what the inhabitants of Louiſiana whiſper to each other, when complaining of their miſeries with which the perfidiouſneſs of their leaders had loaded them, though not accomplices of their crimes. It is alſo ſaid, that the governor of Weſt-Florida was unwilling to countenance the treaſon and revolt of the ſubjects of a prince then in peace with Great Britain: it is affirmed that he ſent to Mr. Aubry the original

offers

offers he had received, and that Don Ulloa, who had not yet ſailed, carried them with him to Europe for his juſtification. Why then did not Mr. Aubry produce that paper to confound the conſpirators? They would have been looked upon with execration by the people whom they had betrayed, and the diſturbances would have immediately ſubſided. Can it be believed, that the governor of Florida inſiſted on ſecrecy, as it is intimated by ſome perſons who would be glad to apologize for Mr. Aubry's conduct reſpecting this matter? Had the inteſtine diviſions, which then rent the Britiſh colonies of North-America, induced the Britiſh governor to diſcover the conſpiracy in order to prevent the fatal conſequences of ſo dangerous an example, would not ſecrecy have deprived him of the only fruit he could expect from his policy?

—Never heard of.

Monſieur de Sacier, one of the council, with two other Gentlemen of the colony, who were ſent to France with the edict of the ſuperior council, and to implore the protection of the king, as before mentioned, were impriſoned on their arrival, and have never been heard of ſince.

During ſix months, which elapſed before news could be received from Europe, the unhappy coloniſts vainly flattered themſelves with hopes of being juſtified for the ſteps they had taken by the court of France. On the 23d of July 1769, news was brought to New Orleans of the arrival of General O'Riley at the Balize, with eighteen tranſports, followed by ten more from the Havanna, having four thouſand five hundred troops on board, and loaded with ſtores and ammunition. This intelligence threw the town into the greateſt conſternation and perplexity, as but a few days before, letters had arrived from Europe ſignifying that the colony was reſtored to France.

Gen. O'Riley's arrival at the Balize.

Inhabitants determined to oppoſe him.

In the general diſtraction that took place, the inhabitants of the town and the adjacent plantations determined

determined to oppoſe the landing of the Spaniards, and ſent couriers requiring the Germans and Acadian Neutrals to join them. On the 24th an expreſs arrived from General O'Riley, which was read by Monſieur Aubry to the people in church; by this they were informed that he was ſent by his Catholic Majeſty to take poſſeſſion of the colony, but not to diſtreſs the inhabitants; and that when he ſhould be in poſſeſſion, he would publiſh the remaining part of the orders he had in charge from the king his maſter; and ſhould any attempt be made to oppoſe his landing, he was reſolved not to depart until he could put his majeſty's commands in execution.

Deputies ſent to meet him.

The people, diſſatisfied with this ambiguous meſſage, came to a reſolution of ſending three deputies to General O'Riley, viz. Meſſieurs Grandmaiſon town-major, La Friniere attorney-general, and De Mazant formerly captain in the colony's troops, and a man of very conſiderable property; theſe gentlemen acquainted him, that the inhabitants had come to a reſolution of abandoning the province, and demanded no other favour than that he would grant them two years to remove themſelves and effects. The general received the deputies with great politeneſs, but did not enter into the merits of their embaſſy, farther than aſſuring them, that he would comply with every reaſonable requeſt of the coloniſts; that he had the intereſt of their country much at heart, and nothing on his part ſhould be wanting to promote it; that all paſt tranſactions ſhould be buried in oblivion, and all who had offended ſhould be forgiven: to this he added every thing that he imagined could flatter the expectations of the people. On the firſt of Auguſt the deputies returned, and made public the kind reception the general had given them, and the fair promiſes he had made. The minds of the people were now greatly tranquilized, and thoſe who had before determined

ſuddenly to quit their plantations now reſolved to remain until their crops were off the ground.

His arrival & diſembarking of the troops at New Orleans.

On the 16th of Auguſt 1769, General O'Riley with the frigate, tranſports and troops on board arrived oppoſite to New Orleans. On the 18th the troops diſembarked, and the general took poſſeſſion in form, of New Orleans and the province of Louiſiana, in the name of his Catholic Majeſty, as quietly as a French governor would have done in the happieſt times; and on the 25th, ordered the attorney general and twelve others amongſt the principal inhabitants to be arreſted.

Attorney-General and others arreſted.

Of theſe thirteen, no more than one was releaſed: this was the printer, who produced the poſitive orders which the intendant had given him, for printing the decree iſſued againſt Don Ulloa, and ſeveral other writings. A few days before the proceedings began, a young gentleman nearly related to the attorney general, and one of the priſoners, feigned a deſign of forcibly reſcuing himſelf from the ſoldiers who guarded him. He received ſeveral wounds, which gave him that death which he ſought. The proceedings againſt the eleven others, were conducted in a military manner by Gen. O'Riley, and the members of the court were moſtly Spaniſh officers. The council of war pronounced their ſentence on thoſe proceedings. In vain did the attorney general and the other priſoners demand to be tried by the French laws. Theſe would not have proved favourable to their accuſers. General O'Riley was ſo unjuſt as to refuſe that reaſonable requeſt. The attorney general and four others, who were ſhot with him, died with fortitude. Had they really deſerved that fate, their condemnation is not the leſs criminal, in the eyes of thoſe who are not ſtupid enough to reverence authority when trampling upon the laws. The ſentence of the court martial diſhonours the authors and tools of that injuſtice; it diſhonours no others. The

Sentence of the Council of War.

The ſix other ſtate priſoners were ſent to fort Moro in the iſland of Cuba, whence they were releaſed after one year's confinement. The eſtates of the eleven perſons, who were condemned by the court martial, were confiſcated, according to the practice of moſt countries; a practice as impolitic as it is unjuſt. It reflects diſgrace on princes, occaſions the impunity of the greateſt crimes, and often multiplies the number of criminals. Many might be virtuous enough not to ſkreen a guilty kinſman from juſtice; but few have ſufficient magnanimity to ſee with indifference the eſtate of that kinſman paſs into the prince's coffers, or thoſe of his miniſters. How many has not this ſole reaſon ſeduced to engage in conſpiracies or rebellions, which they would otherwiſe have wiſhed to deſtroy: in ſuch caſes it frequently happens that the prince, whom confiſcations cauſe to behold as an enemy, is deſervedly oppoſed for his rapaciouſneſs or inattention to his own intereſt.

The French beheld, with horror, their countrymen given up to foreigners, privately tried and arbitrarily puniſhed, for crimes of which they were accuſed in a country ſubject to France. The indignity offered to Spain was the oſtenſible cauſe of their condemnation; but whatever their crime might have been, France alone ought to have had cognizance of it. If the accuſed were guilty of nothing elſe; or if, for ſtate reaſons, it was thought proper to mention that offence only, the king of Spain would have cauſed his name to be for ever bleſſed in the colony, had he, a judge in his own cauſe, generouſly forgiven. The meaſures that have been adopted, have produced a very different effect. They are nearly the ſame as thoſe of the Portugueſe government, which contrived Father Malagrida's being burnt by the inquiſition, on the pretence of his having boaſted that he had ſometimes converſed with the Holy Virgin; but whoſe real

The French beheld, with horror, their countrymen given up to foreigners.

real crime was an attempt againſt his ſovereign's life, in order to make another family aſcend the throne. Crimes like theſe, openly perpetrated by the adminiſtration againſt the laws, common ſenſe and public ſafety; can no where be palliated with the pretence of neceſſity. Whatever thoſe who adviſe them may think on the ſubject, they betray their country and their ſovereign himſelf. In free ſtates, where the perſonal ſafety of the meaneſt individual is as intereſting to the whole nation as that of the greateſt, crimes of this kind are never ſeen. They can be committed in ſuch countries only, where deſpotiſm is eſtabliſhed; where a few, favoured ſlaves, reduce the reſt ſecretly to wiſh for the annihilation of thoſe whom they ſeemingly adore.

Abolition of the laws of Louiſiana.

The ſame diſordered brains which projected the illegal proſecutions carried on againſt the factious leaders of Louiſiana, have doubtleſs fancied, that they would deſerve immortality for a maſterly ſtroke of policy, when they procured the abolition of the laws, privileges, and ſuperior council of Louiſiana, under the pretence of a decree iſſued againſt Don Ulloa. Have they really thought that people could be deceived by names which were to repreſent nothing? The ſhadow of a tribunal was eſtabliſhed under the name of Cabildo government, that is civil government, but the governor and his aſſeſſor are in fact the only judges. Since the judgments given by them jointly have the ſame virtue as thoſe of that Cabildo government, few are ſo unſkilful as to apply to this tribunal. Nay, who would dare to do it except in trifling matters? Was it likewiſe believed that, for the governor and his aſſeſſor's conveniency, the ſubſtituting of the Spaniſh language to the French, in all the juridical proceedings of Louiſiana, where the inhabitants underſtand the French language only; the impartial diſpenſation of juſtice, which is the true glory of the ſtate,

would

would thence be effectually promoted? Things will certainly go well, as long as governors and their aſſeſſors ſhall have all the qualifications that perfect judges ought to have, and whilſt the parties can procure faithful interpreters: but it is as true that, wiſe as theſe regulations are boaſted to be, they depopulate the colony.

Gen. O'Riley confirms the decrees of the Superior Council.

General O'Riley confirmed all the decrees of the ſuperior council, except that which had been iſſued againſt Don Ulloa. This was ſolemnly approving the ſeditious nomination of the members of Mr. Foucault's and the Attorney-General's making; it was therefore arrogantly annulling the proteſt which Mr. Aubry had entered in behalf of the king of France and the public, againſt that nomination, and all the decrees iſſued out of that tribunal during the anarchy; it was depriving thoſe who had been oppreſſed from the hopes of obtaining redreſs in the colony. For, the council being aboliſhed, how could any one take the benefit of the French laws, (ſince trials by peers or juries are diſuſed) or think deſpotic rulers would allow of applying to ſovereign courts for obtaining new trials of the cauſes, which they themſelves may have tried illegally, or againſt evidence? But, to flatter the Spaniards, Gen. O'Riley had determined that they alone ſhould be judges; and military men of that nation could not, with the leaſt plauſibility, pretend that they were acquainted with the French laws; he, therefore, had rather cut off than untie. Such is the diſpoſition of tyrants of every rank and denomination: Alexander cutting the Gordian Knot is, perhaps, of all the fables that are confounded with hiſtory, that which more truly characteriſes deſpotiſm. Men who led by avarice and ambition obtain admittance to that order, diſregarding the people to whoſe preſervation they ſeem to have profeſſedly devoted themſelves, but who are determined on making their fortunes, are never

The diſpoſition of tyrants.

diſturbed

disturbed in the least about the means which can promote their grand design. Their eyes being fixed on all those who have a share in the dispensation of wealth and honours, they see them only. Their mercenary zeal prompts them to wish for their being entrusted with iniquitous and inhuman orders, which they alone are fit to execute. Strangers to nature, they are deaf to the voice of justice and the cries of humanity; and, unable to rise by noble and generous actions, they glory in displaying their zeal for the prince, by wholly loading themselves with that public execration which attends the execution of sanguinary orders. It is not from such abject souls that a prince, inebriated with power, can ever learn that there are moments, not numerous indeed, but yet frequent enough to comfort the oppressed and chastise the oppressor----moments, when, after having made himself odious to his subjects; after having weakened and degraded them, he may regret their attachment, the courage which despotism has endeavoured to enervate, and the patriotism which it has attempted to destroy.

Galvez takes possession of the British posts.

After this General Galvez Governor of New Orleans, in the year 1779, possessed himself of the British posts at the Ibberville and Baton Rouge. By capitulation, the post at the Natchez was evacuated, and the garrison permitted to join the troops at Pensacola. The Spaniards likewise reduced the forts of Mobille and Pensacola; the former in the year 1780, and the latter in 1781. The above conquests not only subjected the eastern side of the Mississippi, but the whole province of West-Florida to the dominion of Spain.

Having briefly touched on the principal revolutions which have happened in Louisiana, I shall now proceed with a short account of the Mississippi.

The safety and commercial prosperity which may be

be ſecured to the United States by the definitive treaty of peace, will chiefly depend upon the ſhare of the navigation of the Miſſiſſippi which ſhall be allowed to them. Is it not amazing, true as it is, that few amongſt us know this to be the key to the northern part of the weſtern continent? It is the only channel through which that extenſive region, bathed by its waters, and enriched by the many ſtreams it receives, communicates with the ſea. And here let us further obſerve, that the Miſſiſſippi river may truly be conſidered as the great paſſage made by the hand of nature for a variety of valuable purpoſes, but principally to promote the happineſs and benefit of mankind; amongſt which, the conveyance of the produce of that immenſe and fertile country, lying weſtward of the United States, down its ſtream to the Gulf of Mexico, is not the leaſt. To expect the free navigation of the Miſſiſſippi is abſurd, whilſt the Spaniards are in poſſeſſion of New Orleans, which commands the entrance to the weſtern country abovementioned; this is an idea calculated to impoſe only upon the weak. The Spaniards have forts on the Miſſiſſippi, and whenever they may think it conſiſtent with their intereſt, they will make uſe of them to prevent our navigating on it. Treaties are not always to be depended on; the moſt ſolemn have been broken*: therefore we learn that no one ſhould put much faith in the princes of any country: for he that truſts to any thing but the operation of their intereſt, is a poor politician; and he that complains of deceit, where there is an intereſt to deceive, will ever be conſidered as deficient in underſtanding.

Commercial advantages from the treaty of peace.

Account of the Miſſiſſippi.

The great length and uncommon depth of that river,

* Notwithſtanding the free navigation of the Miſſiſſippi allowed by the treaty of 1762, General O'Riley, in the year 1769, ſent a party of ſoldiers to cut the hawſers of a Britiſh veſſel called the Sea Flower, that had made faſt to the bank of the river above the town of New Orleans; the order was obeyed, and the veſſel narrowly eſcaped being loſt.

river, and the exceſſive muddineſs and ſalubrious quality of its waters, after its junction with the Meſſouri, are very ſingular*. The direction of the channel is ſo crooked, that from New Orleans to the mouth of the Ohio, a diſtance which does not exceed 460 miles in a ſtraight line, is about 856 by water. It may be ſhortened at leaſt 250 miles, by cutting acroſs eight or ten necks of land, ſome of which are not 30 yards wide. Charlevoix relates that in the year 1722, at Point Coupeé or Cut Point, the river made a great turn, and ſome Canadians, by deepening the channel of a ſmall brook, diverted the waters of the river into it. The impetuoſity of the ſtream was ſo violent and the ſoil of ſo rich and looſe a quality that, in a ſhort time, the point was entirely cut through, and travellers ſaved 14 leagues of their voyage. The old bed has no water in it, the times of the periodical overflowings only excepted. The new channel has been ſince ſounded with a line of thirty fathoms, without finding bottom.

In the ſpring floods the Miſſiſſippi is very high, and the current ſo ſtrong that with difficulty it can be aſcended; but that diſadvantage is compenſated by eddies or counter-currents, which always run in the bends cloſe to the banks of the river with nearly equal velocity againſt the ſtream, and aſſiſt the aſcending boats. The current at this ſeaſon deſcends at the rate of about five miles an hour. In autumn, when the waters are low, it does not run faſter than two miles, but it is rapid in ſuch parts of the river, which have cluſters of iſlands, ſhoals and ſand-banks. The circumference of many of theſe ſhoals being ſeveral

* In a half pint tumbler of this water has been found a ſediment of two inches of ſlime. It is, notwithſtanding, extremely wholeſome and well taſted, and very cool in the hotteſt ſeaſons of the year; the rowers who are then employed drink of it when they are in the ſtrongeſt perſpiration, and never receive any bad effects from it. The inhabitants of New Orleans uſe no other water than that of the river, which by keeping in jars becomes perfectly clear.

veral miles, the voyage is longer and in ſome parts more dangerous than in the ſpring. The merchandize neceſſary for the commerce of the upper ſettlements on or near the Miſſiſſippi, is conveyed in the ſpring and autumn in batteaux rowed by 18 or 20 men, and carrying about 40 tons. From New Orleans to the Illinois, the voyage is commonly performed in eight or ten weeks. A prodigious number of iſlands, ſome of which are of great extent, interſperſe that mighty river. Its depth increaſes as you aſcend it. Its waters, after overflowing its banks below the river Ibberville, never return within them again. Theſe ſingularities diſtinguiſh it from every other known river in the world. Below New Orleans the land begins to be very low on both ſides of the river acroſs the country, and gradually declines as it approaches nearer to the ſea. This point of land which in the treaty of peace in 1762, is miſtaken for an iſland, is to all appearance of no long date; for in digging ever ſo little below the ſurface, you find water and great quantities of trees. The many beaches and breakers, as well as inlets, which aroſe out of the channel within the laſt half century, at the ſeveral mouths of the river, are convincing proofs that this peninſula was wholly formed in the ſame manner. And it is certain that when La Salle ſailed down the Miſſiſſippi to the ſea, the opening of that river was very different from what it is at preſent.

The nearer you approach to the ſea, this truth becomes more ſtriking. The bars that croſs moſt of theſe ſmall channels, opened by the current, have been multiplied by means of the trees carried down with the ſtreams; one of which ſtopped by its roots or branches, in a ſhallow part, is ſufficient to obſtruct the paſſage of thouſands more, and to fix them at the ſame place. Such collections of trees are daily ſeen between the Balize and the Miſſouri, which ſingly

would ſupply the largeſt city in Europe, with fuel for ſeveral years. No human force being ſufficient for removing them, the mud carried down by the river ſerves to bind and cement them together. They are gradually covered, and every inundation not only extends their length and breadth, but adds another layer to their height. In leſs than ten years time, canes and ſhrubs grow on them, and form points and iſlands, which forcibly ſhift the bed of the river.

Nothing can be aſſerted, with certainty, reſpecting its length. Its ſource is not known, but ſuppoſed to be upwards of 3000 miles from the ſea as the river runs. We only knew that, from St. Anthony's falls, it glides with a pleaſant clear ſtream, and becomes comparatively narrow before its junction with the Miſſouri, the muddy waters of which immediately diſcolour the lower part of the river to the ſea. Its rapidity, breadth, and other peculiarities then begin to give it the majeſtic appearance of the Miſſouri which affords a more extenſive navigation, and is a longer, broader and deeper river than the Miſſiſſippi. It has been aſcended by French traders about twelve or thirteen hundred miles, and from the depth of water, and breadth of the river at that diſtance, it appeared to be navigable many miles further.

From the Miſſouri river to nearly oppoſite the Ohio, the weſtern bank of the Miſſiſſippi is (ſome few places excepted) higher than the eaſtern. From Mine au fer to the Ibberville, the eaſtern bank is higher than the weſtern, on which there is not a ſingle diſcernable riſing or eminence, the diſtance of 750 miles. From the Ibberville to the ſea, there are no eminences on either ſide, though the eaſtern bank appears rather the higher of the two, as far as the Engliſh turn. Thence the banks gradually diminiſh in height to the mouths of the river, where they are not two or three feet higher than the common ſurface of the water.

The

The ſlime which the annual floods of the river Miſſiſſippi leaves on the ſurface of the adjacent ſhores, may be compared with that of the Nile, which depoſits a ſimilar manure, and for many centuries paſt has inſured the fertility of Egypt. When its banks ſhall have been cultivated as the excellency of its ſoil and temperature of the climate deſerve, its population will equal that, or any other part of the world. The trade, wealth and power of America will at ſome future period, depend and perhaps center upon the Miſſiſſippi. This alſo reſembles the Nile in the number of its mouths, all iſſuing into a ſea that may be compared to the Mediterranean, which is bounded on the North and South by the two continents of Europe and Africa, as the Mexican bay is by North and South America. The ſmaller mouths of this river might be eaſily ſtopped up, by means of thoſe floating trees with which the river during the floods is always covered. The whole force of the channel being united, the only opening then left would probably grow deep as well as the bar.

Compariſon with the Nile.

Probability of deepening the channel.

To judge of the produce to be expected from the ſoil of Louiſiana, let us turn our eyes to Egypt, Arabia Felix, Perſia, India, China, and Japan, all lying in correſpondent latitudes. Of theſe China alone has a tolerable government; and yet it muſt be acknowledged they all are, or have been, famous for their riches and fertility. When our wandering imagination ſoars to regions of wealth and terreſtrial bliſs, it delights in reſting on thoſe countries we have juſt mentioned.

Produce of Louiſiana.

Louiſiana is agreeably ſituated between the extremes of heat and cold. Its climate varies as it extends towards the North. The ſouthern parts, lying within the reach of the refreſhing breezes from the ſea, are not ſcorched like thoſe under the ſame latitudes in Africa; and its northern regions are colder than thoſe

Its pleaſant climate.

thoſe of Europe under the ſame parallels, with a wholeſome ſerene air, very ſimilar to the South of France and Liſbon. New Orleans, ſituated in 30d. 2 m. which nearly anſwers to the northern coaſts of Barbary and Egypt, enjoys the ſame temperature of climate with Marſeilles. Not quite two degrees higher in the country of the Natchez, the climate is much more uniform and temperate than at New Orleans. And in the country of the Illinois, which lies about 37 degrees, the ſummer ſeaſon is nearly the ſame as at Paris in France.

Objections to the navigation of the Miſſiſſippi removed.

An objection has been often made by miſinformed men, otherwiſe of great abilities, who too credulouſly believed that the navigation of the Miſſiſſippi river, on account of its rapid current, was more difficult than it is in reality. It appears from the calculation made by ſeveral ſkilful and experienced travellers, that in the autumn when the waters are low, the current deſcends at the rate of about one and a half or two miles in an hour; and that the waters are in this ſtate more than one half of the year. In the ſpring when the freſhes are up, or at their greateſt height, the current runs at the rate of five or ſix miles. It is true that the navigation would be difficult at that ſeaſon, to thoſe who ſail or row up againſt the ſtream; but there is no example of ſuch folly. When the waters of this river are high, the commodities and produce of the interior country are gathered and prepared for exportation with the deſcending current. And when the waters are low, the produce of the interior country is growing to maturity. This is the time for the navigator's importation. Great advantages are likewiſe taken then from eddy currents. At preſent there are few builders ſkilful enough to conſtruct veſſels better calculated for that navigation, than thoſe already mentioned. Time and experience will doubtleſs produce improvements, and render the navigation

vigation of this river nearly as cheap as any other. But that the Miſſiſſippi can anſwer every purpoſe of trade and commerce, is proved to a demonſtration, by the rapid progreſs the French, German, and Acadian inhabitants on that river, have made. They have attained a ſtate of opulence never before ſo ſoon acquired in any new country. And this was effected under all the diſcouragements of an indolent and rapacious government. It may be further aſſerted, that no country in North-America, or perhaps in the univerſe, exceeds the neighbourhood of the Miſſiſſippi in fertility of ſoil and temperature of climate. Both ſides of this river are truly remarkable for the very great diverſity and luxuriancy of their productions. They might probably be brought, from the favourableneſs of the climate, to produce two annual crops of Indian corn as well as rice, and with little cultivation would furniſh grain of every kind in the greateſt abundance. But this value is not confined to the fertility and immenſity of champaign lands; their timber is as fine as any in the world, and the quantities of live and other oak, aſh, mulberry, walnut, cherry, cypreſs, and cedar, are aſtoniſhing. The neighbourhood of the Miſſiſſippi, beſides, furniſhes the richeſt fruits in great variety, particularly grapes, oranges, and lemons in the higheſt perfection. It produces ſilk, cotton, ſaſſafraſs, ſaffron and rhubarb; is peculiarly adapted for hemp and flax, and in goodneſs of tobacco equals the Brazils; and indigo is at this preſent a ſtaple commodity, which commonly yields the planter from three to four cuttings. In a word, whatever is rich or rare in the moſt deſirable climates in Europe, ſeems natural to ſuch a degree on the Miſſiſſippi; that France, though ſhe ſent few or no emigrants into Louiſiana but decayed ſoldiers, or perſons in indigent circumſtances, (and theſe very poorly ſupplied with the implements of huſbandry)

Its advantages for trade and commerce.

Equal to any country in North-America.

began to dread a rival in her colony, particularly in the cultivation of vines, from which ſhe prohibited the coloniſts under a very heavy penalty; yet ſoil and ſituation triumphed over all political reſtraints, and the adventurers, at the end of the war in 1762, were very little inferior to the moſt ancient ſettlements of America in all the modern refinements of luxury.

Soil and ſituation triumph over political reſtraints.

River Miſſiſſippi furniſhes fiſh.

The Miſſiſſippi furniſhes in great plenty ſeveral ſorts of fiſh, particularly perch, pike, ſturgeon, eel, and calts of a monſtrous ſize. Craw-fiſh abound in this country; they are in every part of the earth, and when the inhabitants chuſe a diſh of them, they ſend to their gardens where they have a ſmall pond dug for that purpoſe, and are ſure of getting as many as they have occaſion for. A diſh of ſhrimps is as eaſily procured: by hanging a ſmall canvas bag with a bit of meat in it to the bank of the river, and letting it drop a little below the ſurface of the water, in a few hours a ſufficient quantity will have got into the bag. Shrimps are found in the Miſſiſſippi as far as the Natchez, 348 miles from the ſea.

Deſcription of the coaſt and iſlands about the mouths of the Miſſiſſippi.

Having glanced at the many andvantages that will reſult from the cultivation and improvement of the lands in the neighbourhood of the Miſſiſſippi, we now proceed with a deſcription of the coaſts and iſlands about the mouths of that river with directions to mariners.

The coaſt here is very low and marſhy, and it would be difficult to find the entrances of that river, were it not for the houſes at the old and new Balize, and the flag ſtaff at the former, which appear ſome diſtance at ſea. The white clayey colour of the river water remaining unmixed on the ſurface, is another indication that the Miſſiſſippi is not far diſtant; and though it may be alarming to ſtrangers, as it was to myſelf when I firſt beheld it, as it has the appearance of a ſhoal, yet the ſoundings are much deeper off the Miſſiſſippi than any where elſe on the coaſt. It

It is an obſervation ſaid to be founded on experience, that where the water of the Miſſiſſippi incorporates with, and apparently loſes itſelf in the bay of Mexico, the current divides, and generally ſets north-eaſterly and ſouth-weſterly, but out of ſoundings the currents are in a great meaſure governed by the winds; and if they are not attended to, veſſels may be driven ſouth-weſtward beyond the Balize into the bay of St. Bernard, which is reported to be full of ſhoals, and conſequently a very dangerous navigation.

Directions to Mariners.

To come to an anchor off the Balize, veſſels approaching the land ought to bring the old Balize to bear about W by S, and the new Balize nearly W N W; they will then be about two miles diſtant from, and oppoſite to the Eaſt paſs, or mouth, in 13 or 14 fathom wather: and the ſtrong N E and S E winds always occaſion great ſwells off the Balize, yet when anchored as above directed they may ride in ſafety; except a S E wind, which is the moſt dangerous, as it blows directly on ſhore, ſhould come on ſo violent as to part them from their anchors, and prevent their carrying ſail; in which caſe, if care has not been taken to obtain a good offing, they will drift either on the mud banks into the paſs ala Loutre, which has only eight feet water, or into the bay Briton, where they will be in a critical ſituation, on account of the ſhoal water for which that bay is remarkable.

Precautions.

The beſt precaution againſt the conſequences of a ſouth-eaſt wind will be to get under way before the ſtrength of the gale comes on, and to ſteer about N by W half W for the iſland called Grand Goſier diſtant 7 leagues. In ſailing round the ſouth weſtermoſt part of which, care ſhould be taken to ſteer clear of a ſhoal that runs out from it W S W about two miles, which being paſſed, veſſels ſhould luff up, until the S W end of the iſland bears nearly S E two miles; there

there is then good anchoring in three and an half fathoms ſoft bottom.

There is another ſafe anchoring place in 2 fathom water, juſt within the S W point of the Iſle au Briton; from the S W end of which a ſhoal runs out nearly half a mile. This iſland is about a league to the weſtward of the Grand Goſier, and there is good anchoring between them in 3 and 4 fathoms.

If a ſouth-eaſt gale ſhould happen at night, it would be impoſſible to ſee the way between the above iſlands. In that caſe, a N N E courſe from the mouths of the Miſſiſſippi will clear the chandelures, ſituated about 3 leagues to the north-ward of the Iſle au Grand Goſier, which are better than 9 leagues in length. As all the above iſlands are low and have no trees growing on them, they cannot be ſeen at any diſtance. On that account it will be neceſſary when ſailing towards them, to keep a good look out. There is drift wood on theſe iſlands, and freſh water may be got by digging. The water between the chandelures and the peninſula of Orleans is full of ſhoals, and the navigation fit only for ſmall craft.

Mouths of the Miſſiſſippi how formed.

The river Miſſiſſippi diſcharges itſelf into the gulph of Mexico by ſeveral mouths of different depths of water: in the year 1772, that called the ſouth-eaſt in latitude 29 d 10 m North, and longitude 89 d 10 m Weſt from London afforded 12 feet; the Eaſt mouth, which before the above period furniſhed 15 feet, had then no more than 10 and an half feet; and the north-eaſt only 9 and an half feet on the bar of it. The latter now affords 12 feet, and S W has ſixteen feet. The bars are ſubject to ſhift; but immediately after entering the river, there is from 3 to 7, 8 and 10 fathoms as far as the ſouth-weſt paſs, and from thence 12, 15, 20 and 30 fathoms is the general depth for 1142 computed miles to the Miſſouri river.

The

The ſhoals about the Miſſiſſippi are formed from the trees, mud, leaves, and a variety of other matter continually brought down by the waters of the river, which being forced along by the current, until repelled by the tides, then ſubſide, and occaſion what are commonly called the bars: their diſtance from the entrances of the river, which is generally about 2 miles, depend much on the winds being accidentally with or againſt the tides: when theſe bars accumulate ſufficiently to reſiſt the tides and the current of the river, they form numerous ſmall iſlands, which by conſtantly increaſing, join to each other and at laſt reach the continent.

All the land bordering the mouths of the Miſſiſſippi has been made in this manner. It is more than probable that the whole of the country on both ſides of the river as far as the Ibberville, a diſtance of 204 miles, has been produced in a ſucceſſion of ages by the vaſt quantities of mud, trees, leaves &c. brought down by the annual floods which overflow the banks of the Miſſiſſippi; the large trunks or bodies of trees which have been frequently found in digging in the above diſtance, ſeems to confirm this opinion; and it may reaſonably be ſuppoſed, that the lakes on each ſide of this river are parts of the ſea not yet filled up: thus the land is annually raiſed and conſtantly gains on the ſea. The old Balize, a ſmall port erected by the French on a little iſland, was in the year 1734, at the mouth of the river, it is now two miles above it. In the year 1766, Don Antonio D'Ulloa erected ſome barracks on a ſmall iſland, the new Balize, (to which he gave the name of St. Carlos) for the convenience of pilots, and other purpoſes, being near the ſouth-eaſt entrance of the river, and a more dry and higher ſituation than any there abouts. There was not the leaſt appearance of this iſland 30 years ago*.

* Whatever doubts may ariſe reſpecting the above account, there are not

Old and New Balize.

The old and new Balize were formerly very inconſiderable poſts, with 3 or 4 cannon in each, and garriſoned by a ſubaltern's command. Such are their ſituations that they neither defend the Miſſiſſippi, nor the deepeſt channel into it, and appear to have been eſtabliſhed only for the purpoſes of aſſiſting veſſels coming into the river, and forwarding intelligence or diſpatches to New Orleans.

In aſcending the Miſſiſſippi.

In aſcending the Miſſiſſippi there are extenſive natural meadows, with a proſpect of the ſea, on both ſides, moſt part of the diſtance to the Detour aux Plaquemines, which is 32 miles: from thence to the ſettlements 20 miles further, the whole is a continued tract of low and marſhy grounds, generally overflowed, and covered with thick wood, Palmetto buſhes, &c. which appear almoſt impenetrable to either man or beaſt. From thence the banks of the river are well inhabited to the Detour des Anglois, where the

Detour les Anglois.

not inſtances wanting to prove that ſome other parts of the earth have been formed in a ſimilar manner, as will appear by the following facts.

Havre de Grace is ſituated in the Pays de Caux, about 18 leagues from Rouen, and as much from Dieppe, on the point of a large valley at the mouth of the river Seine, in the latitude of 49 degrees 30 minutes North. It ſtands upon a plain ſpot of ground, full of moraſſes, and croſſed by a great number of creeks, and ditches full of water, which contribute not a little to its ſecurity. This ground was originally gained out of the ſea, and formed from the large quantities of ſand, gravel, and mud, which the force of the tide and the river conveyed to that place in a long courſe of time and by inſenſible degrees. And as it was formed, ſo it ſeems to be daily increaſed by the ſame means: for we are aſſured by a late author*, that about 70 or 80 years ago, the ſea, at high water, came very near that gate of the city which is next the harbour; whereas now the high water mark is nearly half a mile diſtant from it. So that it appears, the ſea has gradually given way, and, as it were, retired to leave the earth at liberty to enlarge and extend itſelf. Nor ought we to be ſurpriſed at this. The ground on which the city of Tyre is built, though now united to the continent, being formerly part of an iſland. Venice would have had the ſame fate long ago, had it not been for the great pains the inhabitants have taken to prevent it: the ſea formerly waſhed the walls of Ravenna, which is now a league diſtant from it; nor are other inſtances of this kind wanting, even in the ſame kingdom of France, particularly Frejus and Narbonne, a few centuries ago, were on the ſhore of the Mediterranean; but now the one is a league, and the other almoſt two, diſtant from it.——Deſcription de la Haute Normandie, tom. i. p. 193.

* Piganiol de la Force, Nouvelle deſcription de la France, tom. ix. page 593.

the circular direction of the river is ſo very conſiderable that veſſels cannot paſs it with the ſame wind that conducted them to it, and muſt either wait for a favourable wind, or make faſt to the bank, and haul cloſe, there being ſufficient depth of water for any veſſel that can enter the river. The two forts and batteries at this place, one of each, on both ſides of the river, are more than ſufficient to ſtop the progreſs of any veſſel whatever*. The diſtance from hence to New Orleans is 18 miles. The Banks of the river are ſettled and well cultivated, and there is a good road for carriages all the way.

Nothing with certainty can be determined reſpecting the time a veſſel may take in ſailing from the Balize to New Orleans, a diſtance of 105 miles. With favourable winds the voyage has been performed in 3 or 4, but it generally takes 7 or 8 days, and ſometimes two or three weeks. There is always ſhoal water near the low points of land covered with willows. In approaching them, a few caſts of the lead will be neceſſary; and in ſeveral places there are trees fixed with one end in the bottom, and the other juſt below the ſurface of the river, and in the ſame direction with the current, which by continual friction of the water, are reduced to a point; and as there are inſtances of veſſels ſailing with force againſt them being run through their bottoms, and ſinking immediately after, too much care cannot be taken to avoid them. Attention ſhould alſo be paid to keep clear of the trees floating down the river during the floods†.

The

* Doctor Cox of New Jerſey aſcended the Miſſiſſippi to this place in the year 1698, took poſſeſſion, and called the country Carolina.

† It is impoſible to anchor without being expoſed to the danger of the great trees, which frequently come down with the current, but more eſpecially at the time of the floods, which if any of them ſhould come athwart hawſe, would moſt probably drive in the bows of the veſſel; and

The water is every where deep enough (except at the Willow Points) to admit veſſels cloſe to either ſhore, where inſtead of letting go an anchor, which would probably be loſt among the logs ſunk in the bottom of the river, veſſels may ſafely make faſt to the trees on the bank; which are generally tall and in ſuch abundance, in ſome parts, that they prevent the winds from being of that ſervice to veſſels in aſcending the Miſſiſſippi, that might be expected. It will be therefore neceſſary for expedition ſake, to rigg as many topſails as poſſible, which commonly reach above the trees and are of more uſe than all the other ſails together; however, care muſt be taken to ſtand by the halliards to prevent the wind, which frequently comes in very ſtrong puffs, from carrying away the top-maſts, ſails, &c.

Town and fortifications of New Orleans.

The town of New Orleans, the metropolis of Louiſiana, was regularly laid out by the French in the year 1720, is ſituated on the Eaſt ſide of the river in 30 d 2 m North latitude, 105 miles from the Balize, as already mentioned; all the ſtreets are perfectly ſtraight but too narrow, and croſs each other at right angles. There are betwixt ſeven and eight hundred houſes in this town, generally built with timber frames raiſed about eight feet from the ground, with large galleries round them, and the cellars under the floors level with the ground: any ſubteraneous buildings would be conſtantly full of water. Moſt of the houſes, have gardens. Excluſive of ſlaves, there are about ſeven thouſand inhabitants of both ſexes. The fortification is only a line of ſtockades, with baſtions of the

and there is a certainty of loſing the anchors, as the bottom of the river is very ſoft mud, covered with ſunk logs, this points out the impoſſibility for veſſels to navigate upon the Miſſiſſippi, unleſs they are permitted to make faſt to the ſhore; and no veſſel can be ſaid to enjoy the free navigation of the river, if deprived of this neceſſary privilege.

the ſame materials, on three ſides, a banquet within, and a very trifling ditch without, and is only a defence againſt muſquetry. The ſide next the river is open, and is ſecured from the inundation of the river by a raiſed bank, generally called the Leveé, which extends from the Engliſh Turn, or the Detour des Anglois, to the upper ſettlements of the Germans, a diſtance of more than 50 miles, with a good road all the way. There is reaſon to believe the period is not very diſtant when New Orleans may become a great and opulent city, if we conſider the advantages of its ſituation, but a few leagues from the ſea, on a noble river, in a moſt fertile country, under a moſt delightful and wholeſome climate, within two weeks ſail of Mexico by ſea, and ſtill nearer the French Spaniſh and Britiſh iſlands in the Weſt Indies, with a moral certainty of its becoming a general receptacle for the produce of that extenſive and valuable country on the Miſſiſſippi, Ohio, and its other branches; all which are much more than ſufficient to enſure the future wealth, power and proſperity of this city.

It may become a great and opulent city.

The veſſels which ſail up the Miſſiſſippi haul cloſe along ſide the bank next to Orleans, to which they make faſt, and take in or diſcharge their cargoes with the ſame eaſe as from a wharf.

Eaſy loading and unloading veſſels.

From New Orleans there is a very eaſy communication with Weſt-Florida, by means of the Bayouk of St. John, a little creek which is navigable for veſſels drawing about four feet water ſix miles up from the lake Ponchartrain, where there is a landing-place, at which veſſels load and unload: this is about two miles from the town. The entrance of the Bayouk of St. John is defended by a battery of five or ſix cannon. There are ſome plantations on the Bayouk, and on the road from thence to New Orleans.

Canes-Brulé, Chapitoula, and the German ſettlements join each other, and are a continuation of well-

Canes-Brulé, Chapitoula, and the German ſettlements.

well-cultivated plantations, of near fifty miles from New Orleans, on each ſide of the river. At the German ſettlements, on the Weſt ſide of the river, is a church ſerved by the Capuchins. There was formerly a ſmall ſtockaded fort in the centre of the ſettlements on the Eaſt ſide of the river: this poſt was originally erected as an aſylum for the inhabitants who firſt ſettled there, and were much moleſted by the Chactaws and Chickaſaws, who in alliance carried on a war againſt the ſettlers on the Miſſiſſippi. Their entry into this part of the colony was very eaſy, as they went up a ſmall creek, Tigahoe, in canoes. The entrance of this creek, which is in the lake Pontchartrain, was defended by a ſmall redoubt, ſince in ruins.

Produce of the plantations, &c.

The produce of the plantations, commencing below the Engliſh Turn, and continuing to the upper ſettlements of the Germans, form a very conſiderable part of the commerce of this country; the different articles are indigo, cotton, rice, beans, myrtle-wax and lumber. The indigo is much eſteemed for its beautiful colour and good quality; the colour is brighter than that which is fabricated at St. Domingo. The cotton formerly cultivated, though of a moſt perfect white, is of a very ſhort ſtaple, and is therefore not in great requeſt. The different ſorts of beans, rice, and myrtle candles, are articles in conſtant demand at St. Domingo.

Sugar made with ſucceſs.

In the year 1762, ſeveral of the richeſt planters begun the cultivation of ſugar, and erected mills to preſs the canes; the ſugar produced was of a very fine quality, and ſome of the crops were very large: but no dependance can be had on this article, as ſome years the winters are too cold, and kill the canes in the ground.

Slaves how employed in autumn.

In the autumn, the planters employ their ſlaves in cutting down and ſquaring timber, for ſawing into boards

boards and ſcantling. The carriage of this timber is very eaſy, for thoſe who cut it at the back of their plantations make a ditch, which is ſupplied with water from the back ſwamps, and by that means conduct their timber to the river with very little labour: others ſend their ſlaves up to the cypreſs ſwamps, of which there are a great many between New Orleans and Point Coupeé. There they make rafts of the timber they cut, and float down to New Orleans. Many of the planters have ſaw-mills, which are worked by the waters of the Miſſiſſippi, in the time of the floods, and then they are kept going night and day till the waters fall. The quantity of lumber ſent from the Miſſiſſippi to the Weſt India iſlands is prodigious, and it generally goes to a good market.

Villages of the Humas and Alibamas.

About 60 miles from New Orleans are the villages of the Humas and Alibamas. The former were once a conſiderable nation of Indians, but are reduced now to about 25 warriors; the latter conſiſts of about 30, being part of a nation which lived near fort Touloufe, on the river Alibama, and followed the French when they abandoned that poſt in the year 1762. Three miles further up is the Fourche de Chetimachas, near which is the village of a tribe of Indians of the ſame name; they reckon about 27 warriors.

Fourche de Chetimachas.

It is truly ſurpriſing, that the nations who have ſucceſſively poſſeſſed Louiſiana, never endeavoured to obtain an exact knowledge of the ſea coaſt weſtward of the mouths of the Miſſiſſippi. The many difficulties and dangers to which veſſels are expoſed in making, and getting over the ſhallow and ſhifting bars of that river, as well as in a long and tedious navigation upwards of thirty leagues to New Orleans, would render a harbour to the weſtward of the Balize, and a water communication with the upper parts of the Miſſiſſippi of vaſt importance. The nature of the nar-

row ſlip of land extending upwards of 60 leagues between that river and the ſea, in a weſterly courſe, indicates very ſtrongly the probability of a better and more eaſy communication from that quarter, than that by the river Ibberville through the lakes Ponchartrain and Maurepas. This opinion is fully confirmed by the information received from Natchiabe, an intelligent chief of the Humas tribe, who inhabit the banks of a creek known by the name of the Chetimachas fork, already mentioned, and which I am now to deſcribe. The Chetimachas forms one of the outlets of the Miſſiſſippi about 30 leagues above New Orleans, and after running in a ſoutherly direction about 8 leagues from the river, divides into two branches, one of which runs ſouth-weſterly and the other ſouth-eaſterly, to the diſtance of 7 leagues, when they both empty their waters into the Mexican Gulph.

On the Chetimachas, 6 leagues from the Miſſiſſippi, is a ſmall ſettlement of a tribe of Indians of the ſame name. To this ſettlement the Chetimachas is uniformly about 100 yards in width, the depth from 2 to 4 fathoms, when the water is loweſt. The courſe ſoutherly, without any material winding or ſhoal, except at its riſe from the Miſſiſſippi, where there are large collections of drifted logs, which have probably occaſioned the ſand bank formed at the ſame place. This bank however extends no farther than 60 yards, and through which a paſſage might eaſily be cleared for batteaux. The upper part of this outlet is alſo obſtructed, in ſeveral places, by heaps of drifted logs ſimilar to thoſe juſt mentioned, but as the water, at all times, runs deep under them, they could eaſily be cleared off. It would be as eaſy to prevent any further collection of logs, or ſands, at the entrance of this creek, by erecting a ſpar, with piles or caſſoons, a little above it, in an oblique direction with the current of the Miſſiſſippi. That difficulty once overcome, there

there is no other that can impede navigation from the river to the above mentioned ſettlement of the Chetimachas village; nor, as theſe Indians inform, to the Gulph. The banks on both ſides of the Chetimachas, are generally higher than thoſe of the Miſſiſſippi, and ſo elevated in ſome places as never to be overflowed. The ground riſes gradually from its banks about 200 yards, and then gently deſcends to extenſive cypreſs ſwamps. The natural productions are the ſame as on the Miſſiſſippi, but the ſoil from the extraordinary ſize and compactneſs of the canes growing on it, is ſomething ſuperior. If meaſures were adopted and purſued with a view to improve that communication, there would ſoon be, on its banks, the moſt proſperous and important ſettlements of that colony.

Nine miles above the Chetimachas is the *conceſſion* of Monſieur Paris, a pleaſant ſituation and good land. Large herds of cattle are generally kept here, belonging to the inhabitants of Point Coupeé.

The ſettlements of the Acadians are on both ſides of the river, and reach from the Germans to the Ibberville. Theſe are the remainder of the families which were ſent by Gen. Lawrance from Nova Scotia to the then Britiſh ſouthern provinces; where, by their induſtry, they did and might have continued to live very happy, but that they could not publicly enjoy the Roman catholic religion, to which they are greatly bigotted. They took the earlieſt opportunity, after the peace, of tranſporting themſelves to St. Domingo, where the climate diſagreed with them ſo much, that they, in a few months, loſt near half their numbers; the remainder, few only excepted, were, in the latter end of the year 1763, removed to New Orleans at the expence of the king of France. There are about three hundred families of this unfortunate people ſettled in different parts of Louiſiana. They

The ſettlements of Acadians.

 are

are ſober and induſtrious; they clothe themſelves in almoſt every reſpect with the produce of their own fields, and the work of their own hands, and are very obedient and uſeful ſubjects.

River Ibberville.

The river Ibberville is 99 miles from New Orleans, 204 miles from the Balize, and 270 miles from Penſacola, by the way of the lakes Ponchartrain and Maurepas.

In 1765 a poſt was eſtabliſhed here, and the garriſon, which was a detachment of the 34th regiment, withdrawn in the month of July in the ſame year. In December 1766, this poſt was re-poſſeſſed, and a ſmall ſtockaded fort built by a party of the 21ſt regiment, and was demoliſhed and abandoned in 1768. And in the year 1778 it was again poſſeſſed by part of the 16th regiment, who were made priſoners by the Spaniards in the year following.

Before the ceſſion of Louiſiana to Spain, the peltries of the Britiſh and French ſhores of the Illinois have been moſtly carried in the Britiſh dominions, either in Canada, by the upper parts of the Miſſiſſippi through Machillimakinak, or by the way of New Orleans at the mouth of that river. Philadelphia and New-York have alſo received great quantities of peltries in return for their flour and the dry goods which they have ſent to New Orleans, for the Indian trade, or the uſe of the inhabitants. Penſacola received likewiſe large parcels of ſkins and furs, which have been exported thence to London, to South-Carolina, or other parts of America. This is the reaſon why the importance of the Illinois or upper Miſſiſſippi has, till now, been little known. It is even certain, that it has been artfully concealed by many, who availed themſelves of the ignorance of the public on that head.

This would not have been the caſe, had not the Britiſh government withdrawn in 1768, the garriſon of fort Bute, which was conſtructed at Manchac, on the

the bank of the Miſſiſſippi, oppoſite to another fort which the French erected in 1767, at the diſtance of about 400 paces from the Britiſh fort. Theſe forts were ſituated near the place which, in the treaty of peace in 1762, is deſcribed as the mouth of Ibberville river to the North of New Orleans iſland, and the then boundary-line of the poſſeſſions of the two crowns in thoſe parts; but the plenipotentiaries of the two powers were miſinformed; for, as we have already obſerved, the city of New Orleans is not in an iſland, but on the continent. Or if the tract of land on which that city is ſituated, can be termed an iſland, that name can with propriety be applied to it during only two, or at moſt three months every year, when the Miſſiſſippi overflows; an accidental communication with lake Ponchartrain is then opened through the Gut of Ibberville. It may be dignified, during that ſhort period, with the title of river, but dries up as ſoon as the Miſſiſſippi ceaſes to overflow. At any other time the walking from Engliſh to French, now Spaniſh Manchac, is perfectly dry.

This place, if attended to, might be of conſequence to the commerce of Weſt-Florida; for it may with reaſon be ſuppoſed, that the inhabitants and traders who reſide at Point Coupeé, at Natchitoches, Attacappa, the Natchez, on the Eaſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi above and below the Natchez, at the Illinois, and St. Vincents on the Ouabaſhe, would rather trade at this place than at New Orleans, if they could have as good returns for their peltry and the produce of their country; for it makes a difference of ten days in their voyage, which is no inconſiderable ſaving of labour, money, and time. The only difficulty which oppoſes itſelf to this neceſſary eſtabliſhment, is the want of a navigation through the river Ibberville, ſo that veſſels might carry on a conſtant intercourſe betwixt this place and Penſacola without going up the Miſſiſſippi,

ſippi, which is a more tedious navigation. However, this difficulty is greatly obviated by a good road made for carriages between the navigable water of the Ibberville (a diſtance of ten miles) and the Miſſiſſippi; and when the latter is high enough to run into the former, which it generally is during the months of May, June, and July, veſſels drawing from three to four feet, or more, may then paſs from one to the other.

Village of Alibama Indians.

About a mile above the Ibberville, on the Eaſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, there is a village of Alibama Indians, conſiſting of twenty-five warriors.

Point Coupeè ſettlement.

From the Ibberville to the ſettlements of Point Coupeé is 35 miles; they extend full 20 miles on the Weſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, and there are ſome plantations back on the ſide of what is generally called La Fauſe Riviere, through which the Miſſiſſippi paſſed about 70 years ago, making the ſhape of a creſcent. The fort, which is a ſquare figure with four baſtions, built with ſtockades, is ſituated on the ſame ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, about four and a half miles above the loweſt plantation. The inhabitants of Point Coupeé amount to about 2000 of all ages and ſexes, and 7000 ſlaves. They cultivate tobacco, indigo, and Indian corn; raiſe vaſt quantities of poultry, which they ſend to market at New Orleans, and furniſh to the ſhipping. They ſquare a great deal of timber and make ſtaves, which they convey in rafts to New Orleans. Eight miles above the fort at Point Coupeé, on the ſame ſide of the river, is a ſmall village of the

Affagoula Indians.

Affagoula Indians. They have only about a dozen warriors.

On the Eaſt ſide of the river, and oppoſite to the upper plantations of Point Coupeé, is the village of the

Village of Tonicas.

Tonicas, formerly a numerous nation of Indians; but their conſtant intercourſe with the white people, and immoderate uſe of ſpirituous liquors, have reduced them to about twenty warriors.

About

About ten miles above the Tonicas village, on the ſame ſide of the river, is a village of Paſcagoula Indians, of twenty warriors; and a little lower down, on the oppoſite ſide, there is a village of Biloxi Indians, containing thirty warriors. Villages of Paſcagoula and Biloxi Indians.

The Chafalaya is about 30 miles above the ſettlement of Point Coupeé, and 3 miles below the mouth of the river Rouge. It is the uppermoſt mouth of the Miſſiſſippi, and after running many miles through one of the moſt fertile countries in the world, falls into the Bay of St. Bernard, a conſiderable diſtance weſtward of the mouths of the Miſſiſſippi. Chafalaya upper mouth of the Miſſiſſippi.

Fifty-four miles from the Miſſiſſippi down the Chafalaya, on the eaſtern ſide, is the place called the Portage, juſt above the mouth of a ſmall rivulet. This Portage is 18 miles from Point Coupeé. Twelve miles below this Portage is a narrow iſland 24 miles long. The eaſtern channel is choaked up with logs, but the weſtern affords good navigation. The river Appalouſa communicates with this channel nearly oppoſite the middle of the iſland, on the Weſt ſide. There are two ſettlements on the Appalouſa; the firſt is 30 miles, and the other 12 miles further, from its mouth. In deſcending the Chafalaya it is 3 miles from the laſt mentioned iſland to Iſle au Vauche; and to the bay de Chafalaya, which is on the eaſtern ſide of the river, it is 3 miles more. This bay is of a triangular figure, about 6 miles in length, and ſomething better than a mile in width at its entrance. When the Chafalaya is not raiſed with freſhes, there is ſeldom more than 5 feet water in this bay. Fifteen miles from it on the eaſtern ſide, is the bay of Plaquimenes. About half the diſtance between theſe bays, is a rivulet which communicates with the former bed of the Miſſiſſippi, back of Point Coupeé, during the annual floods in that river. The country between them is very low, ſwampy and full of ponds of water.

Near

Near the ſource of the Chafalaya the current is very rapid, but gradually diminiſhes to the mouth, where it is very gentle.

Iſle au Vauche.

We will now return to the Iſle au Vauche, and proceed from thence to lake de Portage, which is 3 miles from the iſland. This lake is 13 miles long, and not more than one and an half broad. It communicates at the ſouthern end, by a ſtrait a quarter of a mile wide, with the grand lake of Chetimachas, which is 24 miles in length and 9 in width. The country bordering theſe lakes is low and flat, and timbered principally with cypreſs, ſome live and other kinds of oak; and on the eaſtern ſide, the land between it and the Chafalaya river, is divided and again ſubdivided by innumerable ſmall ſtreams, which occaſion as many iſlands. Some of theſe ſtreams are navigable.

At a little diſtance from the ſouth-eaſtern ſhore of the lake Chetimachas, is an iſland where perſons paſſing that way generally halt as a reſting place. Nearly oppoſite this iſland, along the weſtern ſhore, there is an opening which leads to the ſea. It is about 150 yards wide, and has 16 or 17 fathoms water. From the lake along this opening it is 3 miles to the Tage river, which is on the North ſide. Three ſmall rivulets fall in on the ſame ſide, in the above diſtance; and 3 miles below the Tage river on the weſtern ſide is a large ſavanna known by the name of Prairu de Jacko. From this ſavanna it is about 33 miles to the ſea.

Tage river.

In aſcending the Tage river, it is 10 leagues from its mouth to an old Indian village, on the Eaſt ſide, called Mingo Luoac, which ſignifies Fire Chief. From this village to the habitation of Monſ. Maſs, which is on the Weſt ſide, it is 2 leagues. One and an half leagues further up, on the Eaſt ſide, is the village de Selieu Rouge, from whence there is a portage of half a mile to lake Chetimacha. Two leagues further up the river, and on the Weſt ſide, is the habitation of Monſ.

Monſ. Gorrel. From whence, to the town la Nouvelle Iberie, on the ſame ſide, it is ſix leagues. The whole of this diſtance is tolerably well ſettled. From this town about ſix leagues weſterly acroſs the country is ſituated the village de Skunnemoke or the Tuckapas, on the Vermillion river, which runs into the bay of St. Bernard. The river Tage, is in general better than 100 yards wide, with a gentle current, and a ſmall ebb and flow of about 8 or 10 inches. It narrows as you aſcend it, where in ſome places, it is not 50 yards over. Veſſels drawing from 7 to 8 feet water may go from the ſea to this town without any obſtructions. About 3 leagues above la Nouvelle Iberie is la Force Point, formerly ſettled by French neutrals. It is now inhabited by creoles of the country, Spaniards from the Canarie iſlands, and a few Engliſh from the eaſtern ſide of the Miſſiſſippi. Then to la Shute branch, which paſſes over a fall of about 10 feet, near to where it enters into the Tage river, it is 3 leagues, and inhabited the whole diſtance. From this branch to Monſ. Flemming's is 2 leagues more. A quarter of a mile back from Mr. Flemming's there is lake 3 leagues in circuit. From Mr. Flemming's to the church De ſata cappau, which is on the Weſt ſide of the Tage, it is 1 league further, all which is inhabited. From the church to what is called the bottom of the bite, is two leagues, and the whole diſtance cloſely ſettled. From thence to the point ſettlement of Acadians is one league, to the plantation of Monſ. l'Deé is alſo a league, and to the point of Monſ. Deé it is half a league further. From Monſ. Deé's to Monſ. Fuzelliere's is 5 leagues by water, but only three by land. Fuzelliere's fork, or branch, is juſt below his houſe, and divides the diſtricts of Attacappau and Appalouſe. And, at the diſtance of about 2 leagues, this branch communicates with the Vermillion river weſterly. The river Tage ſtill continues to the eaſtward. At one

Church De-ſata cappau.

Diſtricts of Attacappau and Appa-louſe.

and

and an half leagues from the fork, or branch, is the Prairie de Monſ. Man, to Monſ. Man's plantation it is one and an half leagues further; from thence upwards the river divides into little brooks, and loſes itſelf in rich and extenſive ſavannahs.

Inhabitants. All the Indians in this part of the country, conſiſting of ſeveral ſmall tribes, do not exceed 100 families. The white people are about 400 families, and can raiſe 500 militia. The number of negroes are nearly equal to the whites.

Soil and Produce. Although this country might produce all the valuable articles raiſed in other parts of the globe, ſituated in the ſame latitudes, yet the inhabitants principally cultivate indigo, rice, tobacco, indian corn and ſome wheat; and they raiſe large ſtocks of black cattle, horſes, mules, hogs, ſheep and poultry. The ſheep is ſaid to be the ſweeteſt mutton in the world. The black cattle, when fat enough for ſale, which they commonly are the year round, are driven acroſs the country to New Orleans, where there is always a good market.

This country is principally timbered with all the different kinds of oak, but moſtly with live oak of the largeſt and beſt quality, uncommonly large cypreſs, black walnut, hickory, white aſh, cherry, plumb, poplar trees, and grape vines; here is found alſo a great variety of ſhrubs and medicinal roots. The lands bordering the rivers and lakes are generally well wooded, but at a ſmall diſtance from them are very extenſive natural meadows, or ſavannas, of the moſt luxuriant ſoil, compoſed of a black mould about one and a half feet deep, very looſe and rich, occaſioned, in part, by the frequent burning of the ſavannas; below the black mould, it is a ſtiff clay of different colours. It is ſaid this clay, after being expoſed ſometime to the ſun, becomes ſo hard that it is difficult either to break or bend, but when wet by a light

a light ſhower of rain, it ſlackens in the ſame manner as lime does when expoſed to moiſture, and becomes looſe and moulders away; after which it is found excellent for vegetation.

This country being ſituated between the latitudes of 30 and 31 d. North, the climate is of courſe very mild and temperate; white froſts, and ſometimes thin ice have been experienced here; but ſnow is very uncommon. Climate.

The river Rouge, which is ſo called from its waters being of a reddiſh colour, and ſaid to tinge thoſe of the Miſſiſſippi at the time of the floods. Its ſource is in New Mexico, and it runs about 600 miles. The river Noir empties itſelf into this river about 30 miles from its confluence with the Miſſiſſippi, which is 187 miles from New Orleans. The famous Ferdinand Soto ended his diſcoveries and his life at the entrance of this river, and was buried there. Near 70 leagues up this river the French had a very conſiderable poſt, Natchitoches. It was a frontier on the Spaniſh ſettlements, being 20 miles from the fort of Adaies. The French fort was garriſoned by a captain's command. There were forty families ſettled here, conſiſting moſtly of diſcharged ſoldiers and ſome merchants who traded with the Spaniards. A great quantity of tobacco was cultivated at this poſt, and ſold for a good price at New Orleans, being held in great eſteem. They ſent alſo ſome peltry, which they received in trade from the neighbouring Indians. River Rouge.

From the river Rouge to fort Roſalie it is fifty-ſix and a quarter miles. This fort is ſituated in the country known by the name of the Natchez, in 31d. 40m. North latitude, about 243 computed miles from New Orleans, and 348 from the Balize, following the courſe of the river. The ſoil, at this place, is ſuperior to any of the lands on the borders of the river Miſſiſſippi, for the production of many articles. Fort Roſalie. Soil at the Natchez.

Its ſituation being higher, affords a greater variety of ſoil, and is in a more favourable climate for the growth of wheat, rye, barley, oats, &c. than the country lower down, and nearer to the ſea. The ſoil alſo produces, in equal abundance, Indian corn, rice, hemp, flax, indigo, cotton, pot-herbs, pulſe of every kind, and paſturage; and the tobacco made here is eſteemed preferable to any cultivated in other parts of America. Hops grow wild; all kinds of European fruits arrive to great perfection, and no part of the known world is more favourable for the raiſing of every kind of ſtock. The climate is healthy and temperate; the country delightful and well watered; and the proſpect is beautiful and extenſive, variegated by many inequalities and fine meadows, ſeparated by innumerable copſes, the trees of which are of different kinds, but moſtly of walnut and oak. The riſing grounds, which are clothed with graſs and other herbs of the fineſt verdure, are properly diſpoſed for the culture of vines; the mulberry trees are very numerous, and the winters ſufficiently moderate for the breed of ſilk worms. Clay of different colours, fit for glaſs works and pottery, is found here in great abundance; and alſo a variety of ſtately timber fit for houſe and ſhip building, &c. The elevated, open, and airy ſituation of this country renders it leſs liable to fevers and agues (the only diſorders ever known in its neighbourhood) than ſome other parts bordering on the Miſſiſſippi, where the want of ſufficient deſcent to convey the waters off occaſions numbers of ſtagnant ponds, whoſe exhalations infect the air.

This country was once famous for its inhabitants, who from their great numbers, and the ſtate of ſociety they lived in, were conſidered as the moſt civilized Indians on the continent of America. They lived ſome years in great friendſhip with the French, whom they permitted to ſettle on their lands, and to whom

they

they rendered every ſervice in their power. Their hoſpitality, it ſeems, was repaid in ſuch a manner, that they determined to get rid of their gueſts; for on the eve of St. Andrew 1729, they ſurpriſed the fort, and put the whole garriſon to death. At the ſame time they made a maſſacre of the inhabitants, in which upwards of 500 were killed; ſome of the women and children they made priſoners; and very few of either ſex eſcaped. The whole colony armed to revenge their ſlaughtered countrymen, and they had ſeveral ſkirmiſhes with the Natchez, in which the ſucceſs was various. In 1730, Monſieur De Perrier de Salvert, brother to the governor, arrived from France, with the rank of lieutenant-general in Louiſiana, and 500 regular troops, who joined the troops and militia of the colony. This army, amounting to 1500 men, went, under the command of the two brothers, to attack the nation of the Natchez; who, with their chiefs, determined to defend themſelves in a fort they had built near a lake which communicates with the Bayouk Dargent, lying Weſt of the Natchez, and North of the river Rouge. They inveſted this fort, and the Indians made a very reſolute and vigorous ſally on them, but were repulſed, after a conſiderable loſs on both ſides. The French having brought two or three mortars, threw ſome ſhells into the fort, which making a havoc amongſt their women and children, ſo terrified the Indians, unuſed to this ſort of war, that they ſurrendered at diſcretion, and were conducted to New Orleans; except a few who had eſcaped to the Chickaſaws, with their hunters who were providing proviſions for their garriſon. Nothing now remains of this nation but their name, by which their country continues to be called. The diſtrict of the Natchez, as well as all along the eaſtern bank of the Miſſiſſippi to the river Ibberville, was ſettling very faſt by daily emigrations from the northern ſtates, but the capture of the Britiſh

Maſſacre of the French in 1729.

Deſtruction of Natchez Indians in 1730.

tiſh troops on the Miſſiſſippi, 1779, put an entire ſtop to it.

Petit Goufre. From fort Roſalie to the Petit Goufre is thirty-one and a half miles. There is a firm rock on the Eaſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi for near a mile, which ſeems to be of the nature of limeſtone. The land near the river is much broken and very high, with a good ſoil, and ſeveral plantations on it.

Bayouk Pierre. From the Petit Goufre to Bayouk Pierre, or Stoney River, is four miles and a quarter. From the mouth to what is called the fork of this river, is computed to be 21 miles. In this diſtance there are ſeveral quarries of ſtone, and the land has a clay ſoil with gravel on the ſurface of the ground. On the North ſide of this river the land, in general, is low and rich; that on the South ſide is much higher, but broken into hills and vales; but here the low lands are not often overflowed: both ſides are ſhaded with a variety of uſeful timber. At the fork the river parts almoſt at right angles, and the lands between, and on each ſide of them, are ſaid to be clay and marl ſoil, not ſo uneven as the lands on this river lower down.

Louſa Chitto. From the Bayouk Pierre to Louſa Chitto, or the Big Black, at the Grand Goufre, is 10 miles. The Big Black (or Louſa Chitto) is, at the mouth, about 30 yards wide, but within, from 30 to 50 yards, and is ſaid to be navigable for canoes 30 or 40 leagues. About a mile and a half up this river, the high lands are cloſe on the right and are much broken. A mile and a half further, the high lands appear again on the right, where there are ſeveral ſprings of water, but none as yet has been diſcovered on the left. At about eight miles further, the high lands are near the river, on the left, and appear to be the ſame range that comes from the Yazou cliffs, which are about twelve miles up the Yazou river. At ſix miles further the high lands are near the river on both ſides,

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and continue for two or three miles, but broken and full of ſprings of water. This land on the left was choſen by General Putnam, Captain Enos, Mr. Lyman and other New England adventurers, as a proper place for a town; and, by order of the governor and council of Weſt Florida in 1773, it was reſerved for the capital. The country round is very fit for ſettlements. For four or five miles above this place, on both ſides of the river, the land is rich, and not ſo much drowned, nor ſo uneven, as ſome parts lower down. About ſix miles and a half further, there is a rapid water, ſtones and gravel bottom 160 yards in length; and in one place a firm rock almoſt acroſs the river, and as much of it bare, when the water is at a moderate height, as confines the ſtream to nearly 20 feet; and the channel is about 4 feet deep.

From the Big Black to the Yazou cliffs is 39 miles and three quarters. From this cliff the high lands ly North eaſtward and South ſouth eaſtward, bearing off from the river, full of cane and rich ſoil, even on the very higheſt ridges. Juſt at the South end of the cliffs, the bank is low, where the water of the Miſſiſſippi, when high, flows back and runs between the bank and high land, which ranges nearly northerly and ſouth ſouth eaſterly to the Louſa Chitto, occaſioning much wet ground, cypreſs ſwamp and ſtagnant ponds. Yazou cliffs.

From the Cliffs, or Aux Cotes, is ſeven miles and a half to the river Yazou. The mouth of this river is upwards of 100 yards in width, and was found by Mr. Gauld to be in latitude 32 d. 37 m. and by Mr. Purcel in 32 d. 28 m. North. The water of the Miſſiſſippi, when the river is high, runs up the Yazou ſeveral miles, and empties itſelf again by a number of channels, which direct their courſe acroſs the country, and fall in above the Walnut hills. The Yazou runs from the north-eaſt and glides through a healthy fertile Yazou river.

tile and pleaſant country, greatly reſembling that about the Natchez, particularly, in the luxuriancy and diverſity of its ſoil, variety of timber, temperature of climate and delightful ſituation. It is remarkably well watered by ſprings and brooks; many of the latter afford convenient ſeats for mills. Further up this river the canes are leſs frequent and ſmaller in ſize, and at the diſtance of 20 miles there are ſcarcely any. Here the country is clear of underwood and well watered, and the ſoil very rich, which continues to the Chactaw and Chickaſaw towns. The former is ſituated on the eaſtern branch of the Yazou, an hundred miles from the mouth of that river, and conſiſts nearly of 140 warriors: the towns of the latter are about 15 miles Weſt of the north-weſt branch 150 miles from the Miſſiſſippi. They can raiſe upwards of 500 warriors. The above branches unite 50 miles from the Miſſiſſippi, following the courſe of the river; the navigation to their junction, commonly called the fork, is practicable with very large boats in the ſpring ſeaſon, and with ſmaller ones a conſiderable way further, with the interruption of but one fall, where they are obliged to make a ſhort portage, 20 miles up the north-weſt branch, and 70 miles from the Miſſiſſippi. The country in which the Chactaw and Chickaſaw towns are ſituated, is ſaid to be as healthy as any part of this continent, the natives ſcarcely ever being ſick. Such of them as frequent the Miſſiſſippi, leave its banks as the ſummer approaches, leſt they might partake of the fevers that ſometimes viſit the low ſwampy lands bordering upon that river. Wheat, it is ſaid, yields better at the Yazou than at the Natchez, owing probably to its more northern ſituation. One very conſiderable advantage will attend the ſettlers on the river Yazou, which thoſe at the Natchez will be deprived of, without going to a great expence; I mean the building with ſtone, there being great plen-

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ty near the Yazou, but none has yet been diſcovered nearer to the Natchez than the Petit Goufre, or little Whirlpool, a diſtance of 31 miles and a half. Between this place and the Balize there is not a ſtone to be ſeen any where near the river. Though the quantity of good land on the Miſſiſſippi and its branches, from the bay of Mexico to the river Ohio, a diſtance of nearly one thouſand miles, is vaſtly great, and the conveniences attending it; ſo likewiſe we may eſteem that in the neighbourhood of the Natchez, and of the river Yazou the flower of it all.

About a mile and a half up the Yazou river, on the North ſide, there is a large creek, which communicates with the Miſſiſſippi above the river St. Francis, about 100 leagues higher up, by the courſe of the river. It paſſes through ſeveral lakes by the way. At the diſtance of twelve miles from the mouth of the river Yazou, on the South ſide, are the Yazou hills. There is a cliff of ſolid rock at the landing place, on which are a variety of broken pieces of ſea ſhells, and ſome entire. Four miles further up is the place called the Ball Ground, near which a church, fort St. Peter, and a French ſettlement formerly ſtood. They were deſtroyed by the Yazou Indians in 1729. That nation is now entirely extinct.

Deſtruction of the French in 1729.

From the Yazou to the river Arkanſaw is 158 and a quarter miles. It is ſo called from a nation of Indians of the ſame name. Its ſource is nearly in the latitude of Santa Fé in New Mexico, and it is ſaid to be navigable for batteaux 750 miles. It runs through an immenſely rich and fertile country. About ten or twelve miles up this river from the Miſſiſſippi there was formerly a fort, garriſoned generally by a company of Spaniſh ſoldiers, for the purpoſe of defending the trade carried on between New Orleans and the ſeveral villages of St. Genevieve, &c. and particularly for defending the commerce with the Arkanſaw

River Arkanſaw.

kanſaw Indians, conſiſting of about 280 warriors, who are as much attached to the French intereſt, as the Chickaſaws are to that of the Engliſh. No ſettlements were made here, except one or two for the immediate accommodation of the garriſon. The inundation of the Miſſiſſippi, about three years ago, occaſioned the evacuation of the above poſt, and the eſtabliſhment of another on the northern bank of the river 36 miles higher up. This poſt, conſiſting of a ſubaltern's command, ſix pieces of cannon and eight ſwivels, was attacked about eighteen months ſince by a party of Chickaſaws, who killed ten ſoldiers of the garriſon, and ſoon after concluded a peace with the Spaniards. There is a hamlet cloſe to the fort, inhabited only by merchants and traders. The Arkanſaw river diſcharges itſelf into the Miſſiſſippi by two channels, about 15 miles from each other; the uppermoſt is called Riviere Blanche, from its receiving a river of that name, reported to be navigable 600 miles, and the ſoil through which it runs equal in quality to any on the Miſſiſſippi.

River St. Francis.

From the Arkanſaw river to the river St. Francis, which is on the Weſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, is 108 miles. This is a ſmall river, and is remarkable for nothing but the general rendezvous of the hunters from New Orleans, who winter there, and collect ſalt meat, ſuet, and bears oil, for the ſupply of that city. Formerly the French had a poſt at the entrance of this river, for a magazine of ſtores and proviſions during their wars with the Chickaſaws, by whom their Illinois convoys were conſtantly attacked and frequently deſtroyed.

River Margot.

From the river St. Francis to the river and hights of Margot, which are on the Eaſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, is 70 and a half miles. This river is ſaid to be navigable for batteaux a number of miles. It appears to be a pretty little river. The high ground below

its

its junction with the Miſſiſſippi affords a commanding, airy, pleaſant and extenſive ſituation for ſettlements; the ſoil is remarkably fertile. On this ground juſt below the mouth of the river, the French built a fort, called Aſſumption Fort, when at war with the Chickaſaws, in the year 1736, but it was demoliſhed in the year following, when a peace with thoſe Indians was concluded.

Chickaſaw River.

From the river Margot to the Chickaſaw river, which is on the Eaſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, is 104 and a half miles. The lands here are of an excellent quality, and covered with a variety of uſeful timber, canes, &c. This river may be aſcended during high floods upwards of 30 miles with boats of ſeveral tons burthen.

Mine au fer.

From the Chickaſaw river to Mine au fer, or the Iron Mines, on the Eaſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, is 67 and a quarter miles. Here the land is nearly ſimilar in quality to that bordering the Chickaſaw river, interſperſed with gradual riſings or ſmall eminences. There is a poſt at this place, near the South boundary of Virginia.

Ohio River.

From Mine au fer to the Ohio river, which is the largeſt eaſtern branch of the Miſſiſſippi, is 15 miles. This river, and its principal branches, as alſo the ſettlements in the Illinois country, are delineated in a map, and very particularly deſcribed in a pamphlet which I publiſhed in London, the 1ſt of January 1778, and to them the reader is referred.

Having briefly touched upon all the ſettlements on, and principal branches of the Miſſiſſippi, from the ſea to the river Ohio; I ſhall now juſt mention the bounds of Weſt-Florida.

Bounds of Weſt-Florida.

The province of Weſt-Florida is ſituated on the North ſide of the Gulph of Mexico, and extends from the river Appalachicola, which is the boundary between it and Eaſt-Florida, to the Regolets at the en-

trance into lake Ponchartrain, thence through the lakes Ponchartrain and Maurepas, and along the river Ibberville to the Miſſiſſippi, thence along the Miſſiſſippi to the northernmoſt part of the 31ſt deg. of North latitude, thence by a line drawn due Eaſt along the South boundary of the ſtate of Georgia to the river Appalachicola, including all the iſlands within ſix leagues of the coaſt, between the Appalachicola and lake Ponchartrain.

General obſervations relating to the coaſt of Florida.

I now proceed to make ſome general obſervations, which may be of ſervice in making the land when you arrive on the coaſt of Florida. This is diſtinguiſhable many different ways; as by the latitudes, the trenching and direction of the ſhore, and the ſoundings and quality of the bottom, to each of which particular attention muſt be paid.

From cape Blaiſe in 29 d 41 m North latitude, to the Balize at the mouth of the Miſſiſſippi, the coaſt forms a curve, inclining to the northward, for 28 leagues, as far as the Eaſt end of Roſe iſland in 30 d 28 m North; from thence the land gradually declines to the ſouthward, as far as Mobille Point in 30 d 17 m North about 30 leagues. Dauphin iſland, and the other iſlands, including Ship iſland, ſtretch nearly Weſt for the ſpace of 20 leagues, and from the North end of the Chandeleurs, which lies near 5 leagues to the South-eaſt of Ship iſland, the coaſt runs chiefly to the ſouthward till you arrive at the entrance of the river Miſſiſſippi.

It is likewiſe to be obſerved, that in ſeveral places there is double land to be ſeen over the different bays and lagoons: as at St. Andrew's bay; which may be known by a high white ſand hill, near the point of a peninſula, on the left hand going in: at St. Roſe's bay; where there is a remarkable red bluff on the Eaſt ſide of the entrance juſt oppoſite to the Eaſt end of Roſe iſland; over the greateſt part of which iſland double land may likewiſe be ſeen from the

the maſt head, and at the bay of Penſacola, the entrance of which is remarkable on account of the red cliff oppoſite to the Weſt end of Roſe iſland. There is a large lagoon, a little more than a league to the weſtward of this cliff, about 3 leagues in length, leaving a narrow peninſula, over which the double land may eaſily be ſeen, with a high red bank on the North ſide about half way; this ſeems to diſtinguiſh it from any other part of the coaſt. There is a double land at the entrance of the river Perdido; but it is not eaſily obſerved at any conſiderable diſtance. The ſame may alſo be ſeen over ſome parts of Dauphin iſland, and thoſe to the weſtward of it, viz. Maſſacre, Horn and Ship iſlands, as well as between them; but it appears at ſo great a diſtance, that it cannot be miſtaken for any part of the coaſt to the eaſtward of Mobille Point.

The Chandeleurs, which were 5 in number, when I viſited them in the year 1772, extend nearly S by W 9 or 10 leagues. The Iſle aux Grand Gozier lies about 10 or 11 miles to the ſouthward of them, with breakers all the way between. The Iſle au Briton, or rather a cluſter of iſlands of that name, lie about 4 miles to the weſtward of the Grand Goziers, or Great Pelican iſland: both theſe and the Chandeleur iſlands are very low, with ſome buſhes: and behind them, at a conſiderable diſtance, there is a chain of low marſhy iſlands and lagoons, bordering the peninſula of Orleans. The Chandeleur iſlands.

This is a dangerous part of the coaſt to a ſtranger, both on account of the lowneſs of the land, which cannot be ſeen at any diſtance, as there are no trees, and likewiſe on account of the above mentioned ſhoal between the ſouthernmoſt of the Chandeleurs, and the Grand Goziers, from latitude 29d 42m North, to 29 d 32 m North. A dangerous part of the coaſt.

There is however very good ſhelter for ſhips, within

Naſſau Road. in the North end of the Chandeleurs, in Naſſau road, which lies 5 leagues to the ſouthward of Ship iſland, and is one of the beſt for large veſſels on the whole coaſt of Florida; not only as it affords good ſhelter from thoſe winds that blow on ſhore, but as it is, by having no bar, of ſo eaſy an acceſs from the ſea. Care muſt however be taken, not to go within three quarters of a mile of the inſide of the iſland, it being ſhoal near that diſtance from the ſhore.

Veſſels may go round the North end of it from the ſea, in 5 and a half and 6 fathoms, at half a mile from the ſhore; and afterwards muſt keep in 4 and a half and 5 fathoms, till the North point bears N N E about 2 miles; when they may come to an anchor in 4 fathoms good holding ground, ſheltered from eaſterly and ſoutherly winds.

It would be neceſſary for veſſels to be well acquainted with this road, as eaſterly winds are frequent on the coaſt of Florida. There is freſh water to be got any where on the Chandeleurs by digging; beſides which it might be met with in a kind of well, at an old hut near the North end. No wood is to be found here but drift wood, of which there is great plenty along ſhore.

Naſſau Road was firſt diſcovered by Dr. Daniel Cox of New Jerſey, about the time of King William the 3d, who gave it the name of Naſſau, in honour of that prince. Doctor Cox had likewiſe given the name of the Myrtle iſlands to thoſe which are ſtill ſo denominated, before the French called them the Chandeleurs; and they were ſo named by both, from the candles made of the myrtle wax with which theſe iſlands abound.

River Ibberville. From the Weſt ſide of the * iſthmus of the peninſula of Orleans to the junction of the Ibberville with lake

* The river Ibberville was very little known by the Engliſh at the treaty of peace in 1762; for notwithſtanding the crown has expended ſome

lake Maurepas, it is 60 computed miles, following the courſe of the river, which for the firſt 10 miles is not navigable above four months in the year; but there is at all times from two to ſix feet for three miles further, and between two and four fathoms is the depth the remaining part of the way to the lake.

The river Amit falls into the Ibberville on the North ſide, about 21 miles from the junction of the Ibberville with the Miſſiſſippi. The water of the Amit is clear, with a gravelly bottom. It may be aſcended with veſſels drawing five or ſix feet water, about half a dozen miles, and with batteaux 100 miles further. Seventeen miles from the Ibberville this river forks; the weſtern branch, called the Comit, has its ſource near the country of the Natchez; and the eaſtern branch, which is the moſt conſiderable, riſes near the Pearl river: both theſe branches run through a very fertile country, in ſome parts hilly, which, as well as the low lands, is covered with canes, oaks, aſh, mulberry, hickory, poplar, cedar and cypreſs. The banks in general are high, yet in ſome parts they are ſubject to be overflowed. There were a number of inhabitants ſettled on the Amit and Comit, who had ſlaves, and who raiſed indigo, cotton, rice, hemp, tobacco, and Indian corn, in great abundance, and all excellent in their kind. They had plenty of horſes, cows, hogs, poultry, &c. and the river abounds with a variety of fiſh. River Amit.

From the Amit to lake Maurepas is 39 miles, following the Ibberville. The quality of the land and timber

ſome thouſands of pounds in clearing the Ibberville, it is not now navigable from the Miſſiſſippi towards lake Maurepas, even for a canoe; and when I viewed it on the 10th of October 1766, the ſurface of the water of the Miſſiſſippi was then 24 feet below the bed or bottom of the Ibberville. The Miſſiſſippi is the ſource of the Ibberville, when raiſed high enough to run into it, and occaſions what is erroneouſly called the iſland of Orleans to be then an iſland in fact, but at any other time it is not environed with water; therefore, with what degree of propriety can the Ibberville be termed a river, or the town of New Orleans ſaid to be ſituated on an iſland?

timber on this river is ſimilar to that on the Amit, with this difference, its banks in general are lower and the country leſs hilly, and there is a greater proportion of rice land, and alſo cypreſs and live oak; the latter is of an extraordinary quality for ſhip building. There were ſeveral inhabitants on this river who raiſed indigo, Indian corn, rice, &c. and were in a very thriving way.

Lake Maurepas.

Lake Maurepas is about 10 miles in length and 7 in width, with 10 or 12 feet water in it. The country round it is low, and covered with cypreſs, live oak, myrtle, &c. Two creeks fall into this lake; one from the North ſide, called Nattabanie, the other from the peninſula of Orleans.

Paſſage between Lake Ponchartrain and Maurepas.

From the Ibberville acroſs the lake, it is 7 miles to the paſſage leading to Ponchartrain. The length of this paſſage is 7 miles, and only 300 yards in width, which is divided into two branches by an iſland that extends from Maurepas to about the diſtance of a mile from Ponchartrain. The South channel is the deepeſt and ſhorteſt.

Lake Ponchartrain.

Lake Ponchartrain. The greateſt length of this lake is about 40 miles, breadth 24 miles, and depth 18 feet. The following creeks fall in on the North ſide, Tangipaho and Le Comble, 4 feet deep; Chefuncta, 7; and Bonfouca, 6; and from the peninſula of Orleans, Tigahoc, at the mouth of which was a ſmall poſt. The Bayouk of St. John, which alſo communicates on the ſame ſide, has been already mentioned. The French inhabitants, who formerly reſided on the North ſide of this lake, chiefly employed themſelves in making pitch, tar, and turpentine, and raiſing ſtock, for which the country is very favourable.

The diſtance from lake Ponchartrain through the Regolets is 10 miles, and between 3 and 400 yards broad, and lined with marſhes on each ſide.

On

Paſſage into Lake Borgne.

On the South ſide of the Regolets, and near to the entrance from the ſea, there is a large paſſage into the lake Borgne, or Blind lake, and, by ſome creeks that fall into it, ſmall craft may go as far as the plantations on the Miſſiſſippi; and there is a paſſage between the lakes Borgne and Ponchartrain: but either by this, or that of the Rigolets, ſix, and ſometimes ſeven feet, is the deepeſt water through.

Paſſage thro' the Regolets.

Pearl River.

Near the entrance at the Eaſt end of the Regolets, and on the North ſide, are the principal mouths of Pearl river, which riſes in the Chactaw nation, and is navigable upwards of 150 miles. There is 7 feet going into it, and deep water afterwards. In the year 1769, there were ſome ſettlements on this river, where they raiſed tobacco, indigo, cotton, rice, Indian corn, and all ſorts of vegetables. The land produces a variety of timber fit for pipe and hogſhead ſtaves, maſts, yards, and all kinds of plank for ſhip building.

Produce of the country on the banks of Pearl River.

St. Louis Bay.

From the Regolets to the bay of St. Louis is about 18 miles. This is a ſmall beautiful compact bay with about 7 feet water in it: the land near it is of a light ſoil, and good for paſture. There were ſeveral ſettlers formerly on it, but in the year 1767, the Chactaw Indians killed their cattle and obliged them to remove.

Bay of Biloxi.

From this bay to the bay of Biloxi, is 26 miles. Juſt oppoſite to Ship iſland, on the main land, is ſituated old Biloxi, in a ſmall bay of the ſame name, behind L'Iſle au Chevereuil, or Buck or Deer iſland. This is the place where the French made their firſt eſtabliſhment in Louiſiana: but they did not continue there long, finding it in every reſpect an improper ſituation for the capital. There are ſtill a few inhabitants at Biloxi, ſome of whom are the offspring of the original ſettlers. Their chief employment is raiſing of cattle and ſtock, and making pitch and tar: but the natives are very troubleſome to them.

Old Biloxi.

From

Paſcagoula River.

From the Biloxi to the Paſcagouli river is about 13 miles. This river empties itſelf by ſeveral mouths; between the eaſtermoſt and weſtermoſt of which, there is a ſpace of between 3 and 4 miles, that is nearly one continued bed of oyſter ſhells, with very ſhoal water. The only channel is at the weſtermoſt entrance, where there are 4 feet. This large river about 20 miles above its entrance is divided into two branches, which continue their courſe to the ſea, generally about 5 or 6 miles aſunder. The intermediate ſpace, for ſeveral miles above its mouth, is nothing but marſhes interſected by lagoons. After getting into either of the branches, there is from 3 to 6 fathoms, and the river is ſaid to be navigable for more than 150 miles.

Soil on the River.

The ſoil on this river, like all other rivers on the coaſt of Weſt Florida, grows better the higher up you go; but even near the entrance it is far from being bad. There are ſome good plantations on the Eaſt ſide, but here, as well as all the way to the weſtward, the inhabitants are much moleſted by the natives, eſpecially by the Chactaws who kill their cattle, &c.

Paſs au Heron.

From the Paſcagoula river to the Paſs au Heron at the bay of Mobille is 18 miles. This paſs has 4 feet water; and from thence to the point, which is on the Eaſt ſide of the bay of Mobille, in latitude 30 d 17 m North, is nearly 6 miles.

Before deſcribing this bay, I ſhall take notice of the following iſlands ſituated along the coaſt, between the bay of St. Louis and the point of Mobille.

Cat Iſland, and the adjacent parts.

Cat iſland lies about 8 miles eaſtward of the bay of St. Louis, and 7 miles from the coaſt: it is 6 miles in length, very narrow, and of an irregular ſhape, with a large ſhoal from the Eaſt end of it, extending within two miles of Ship iſland. The ſoil is poor, producing nothing but pine, ſome live oak and graſs,

and

and its ſhore is almoſt every where covered, or bordered with an immenſity of ſhells.

The marſhy iſlands near the peninſula of Orleans, are diſtant about 3 miles South of Cat iſland; and between them there is a channel of 9 feet, which continues to the Regolets through a number of ſhoals.

Ship iſland. Ship iſland is ſituated between 7 and 8 miles Eaſt of Cat iſland, and about 10 miles South of the bay of Biloxi. This iſland is 9 miles in length and 2 miles in width where broadeſt. It produces pine trees and graſs, and there is a well of tolerable water on it. The weſtern part of this iſland is very narrow, and for better than three miles there is not a tree on it. A ſhoal runs out due South, about a mile from the Weſt end. The channel is better than a mile wide with from 4 to 5 and 6 fathoms, but the bar has only 21 feet. In going over it from the ſea the courſe to be ſteered is due North, keeping the above ſhoal near half a mile to the eaſtward, and after fairly paſſing the end of the iſland, from the inner part of which lies a ſhoal, the courſe proceeds N E until the broadeſt part of the point of the iſland bears due South about one mile and a half, where there is between 4 and 5 fathoms. This is a good place to anchor in the ſummer time; but is very much expoſed in winter, when the northerly winds prevail; and is a very convenient place for ſhipping the produce of the rivers Pearl, Ibberville and Amit, and the lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain.

Directions for anchoring.

Horn iſland. From Ship iſland to Horn iſland is between 5 and 6 miles, with a ſmall key called Dog iſland between, about two thirds of the way, and with a ſhoal all the way from the former to about a quarter of a mile of the latter, where there is a channel of 5 fathoms. The above ſhoal extends South of the channel nearly 2 miles, where there is a bar of 15 feet; in croſſing of which it behoves the mariner to keep about half a

mile from the ſhore, and to ſteer for the end of the iſland, and on approaching it to give it a birth of about a cables length, to avoid a ſhoal on the left; after paſſing of which he ought to keep a little to the weſtward, on account of a ſhoal that runs from the inſide of the iſland, then to haul round to the eaſtward, where there is better than 15 feet water, a little more than a mile from the iſland.

Its deſcription. Horn iſland is nearly 17 miles in length, and about half a mile in width. There are more trees on the middle of the iſland than in any other part of it; and for about 3 miles from the Eaſt end there are no trees at all, but there are a number of ſandy hillocks.

Round iſland. Round iſland lies about 5 miles North from oppoſite the middle of Horn iſland, and is well timbered.

Iſland of Maſſacre. The iſland of Maſſacre is upwards of 2 miles to the eaſtward of Horn iſland, from which a ſhoal extends better than a mile and a half between them, leaving a channel of about 11 feet round the Weſt end of Maſſacre iſland; but within the iſland there is between 3 and 4 fathoms.

Maſſacre is nearly 9 miles long and very narrow, it is remarkable for a grove of trees in the middle, which is the more particular as there is not a tree any where elſe on the iſland.

The diſtance between Maſſacre iſland and the main, is about 10 miles, from 2 to 3 fathoms all the way acroſs; except one large ſhoal called la Grand Bature, which ſtretches out from the main land about a league, with 2 or 3 feet water on it, and in ſome places not ſo much. Behind it, there is a large bay called L'ance de la Grand Bature, 8 miles Eaſt of Paſcagoula bluff.

The land here and to the eaſtward, as far as the bay of Mobille, is ſwampy towards the ſea, with a clay bottom for 2 or 3 miles back; but afterwards it is covered chiefly with pines, live oak and hickory, and the ſoil is ſandy or gravelly for ſeveral miles, before

it

it becomes truly fit for culture; notwithſtanding which it is good for paſture.

From Maſſacre to Dauphin iſland is 5 miles, with a ſhoal all the way between them. Theſe are ſuppoſed formerly to have been but one, which went by the general name of Maſſacre, ſo called by Monſ. d'Ibberville, from a large heap of human bones found thereon at his firſt landing; but it was afterwards called Dauphin iſland, in honor of the Dauphin of France, and to take off the diſagreeable idea excited by the other name. Dauphin iſland.

Dauphin iſland is about 10 miles long, and in the broadeſt part not quite 2 miles. The Weſt end for between 3 and 4 miles, is a narrow ſlip of land with ſome dead trees; the reſt is covered with thick pines, which come cloſe to the waters edge on the Eaſt ſide, forming a large bluff. There is the remains of an old French poſt on the South ſide of the iſland; about two miles from that bluff are a few old houſes on the North ſide oppoſite to it, near which are large hillocks of oyſter ſhells, now covered with dwarf cedar and live oak. There are many ſuch veſtiges of the antient inhabitants in ſeveral bays and other places on the coaſt, and as theſe are always found on high banks, the uſual places where the natives encamp, it cannot well be ſuppoſed they were left there by the ſea, though many are of that opinion.

Gillori iſland is divided from Dauphin iſland on the North ſide by a narrow channel, through which a boat may paſs with ſome difficulty; and between Gillori and the main land, on the Weſt ſide of Mobille bay, there is a chain of ſmall iſlands, and oyſter ſhells, through which there is a paſſage of four feet, called Paſſe au Heron, where ſmall craft may go from Mobille bay to the weſtward within the iſlands. There is likewiſe a paſſage for ſmall boats and canoes from the Weſt ſide of the bay of Mobille, through what the French call Riviere aux Poules, which falls in oppoſite Gillori iſland.

poſite to the Weſt end of Dauphin iſland, and cuts off a conſiderable ſpace of ground.

Great Pelican Iſland.

Juſt oppoſite the old fort, on the South ſide of Dauphin iſland, diſtant one mile, lies Great Pelican iſland, which is about a mile in length, and very narrow. It ſtretches to the S E in form of a half moon, the concave ſide being towards the Eaſt end of Dauphin iſland. There are neither trees nor buſhes on it, but here and there large tufts of graſs like ſmall reeds, on the ſandy parts near the ſea ſide.

Hawk's Bay.

Hawk's bay is between Pelican and Dauphin iſlands. There is a broad channel of 11 and 12 feet, afterwards ſafe anchorage in four fathoms good holding ground, and well ſheltered from moſt winds; on which account it is very convenient for ſmall veſſels.

Little Pelican Iſland.

There is a ſmall ſand key called Little Pelican iſland, about a league S E from Great Pelican iſland, forming a curve to the eaſtward, and there it meets a large ſhoal extending from Mobille Point.

Directions for entering Mobille Bay.

The deepeſt water on the bar of Mobille, or rather of Mobille bay, (for there is another bar at the entrance of the river near the town) is only 15 or 16 feet. The mark for going over it in the deepeſt channel, is to bring Little Pelican iſland well on with the bluff on the Eaſt end of Dauphin iſland, bearing about N N W 3-4 W, and then to ſteer in for the key in that direction. The Point of Mobille bears from the bar nearly due North four miles, and the key is more than a mile and a half within it. Both the Eaſt and Weſt reefs, as well as the bar itſelf, are ſteep towards the ſea, there being from three to ſeven and eight fathoms immediately without; this occaſions a conſtant ſwell with a heavy ſea when it blows from the ſouthward: and therefore in rough weather, it would be imprudent to go over it in a veſſel that draws above 10 or 11 feet water. Within the bar it deepens gradually towards Little Pelican iſland, between

tween which and the Eaſt reef, the channel is not more than a quarter of a mile broad, with ſix or ſeven fathoms water. This depth continues all the way round Mobille Point, where is tolerable good anchorage in four or five fathoms, but it is at beſt an open road-ſtead, the bay being too large to afford much ſhelter.

Directions for entering Mobille Bay.

From Mobille Point to the town the diſtance is about 11 leagues nearly due North, and the breadth of the bay in general is about three or four leagues. At the lower part of it is a deep bight that runs about ſix leagues to the eaſtward of the point, having a narrow peninſula between it and the ſea. The river Bon Secour falls into the bottom of this bay or bight, and Fiſh river with that of La Sant on the North ſide of it; on all of which there are ſeveral habitations.

La Riviere aux Poules, and Dog River.

On the Weſt ſide of the bay of Mobille there are likewiſe ſome ſmall rivers, but none conſiderable, beſides La Riviere aux Poules, by which there is a ſmall inland communication to the weſtward, and Dog river, which falls into the bay about nine miles below Mobille. The former has five or ſix feet in the entrance, and is navigable for a boat ſeveral miles back into the country. With regard to the general depth of the water in the bay, there is from two to three fathoms two-thirds of the way from Mobille Point towards the town, and the deepeſt water to be depended on in the upper part of the bay is only 10 or 12 feet, and in many places not ſo much; but there is no danger, as the bottom is ſoft mud. Large veſſels cannot go within ſeven miles of the town.

Town of Mobille.

Notwithſtanding all theſe inconvenieneies in point of navigation, Mobille having been the frontiers of the French dominions in Louiſiana, always was, and now is a very conſiderable place. It has a ſmall regular fort, built with brick, and a neat ſquare of barracks for the officers and ſoldiers. The town is

pretty

pretty regular of an oblong figure, on the Weſt bank of the river, where it enters the bay.

There is a conſiderable Indian trade carried on here. Mobille, when in poſſeſſion of his Britannic Majeſty, ſent yearly to London, ſkins and furs amounting from 12 to 15,000 pounds ſterling: it was then the only ſtaple commodity in this part of the province. The Britiſh garriſon at Mobille ſurrendered to the arms of his Catholic Majeſty in the year 1780.

The bay of Mobille terminates a little to the north-eaſtward of the town, in a number of marſhes, and lagoons: which ſubject the people to fevers and agues in the hot ſeaſon.

Mobille River. The river of Mobille is divided into two principal branches about 40 miles above the town: one of which is called the Tanſa, falls into the Eaſt part of the bay; the other empties itſelf cloſe by the town, where it has a bar of 7 feet; but there is a branch a little to the eaſtward of this, called Spaniſh river, where there is a channel of 9 or 10 feet, when the water is high, but this joins Mobille river about two leagues above the town.

Alibama River. Two or three leagues above the Tanſa branch, the Alibama river falls into Mobille river, after running from the N E a courſe of about 130 miles; that is from Alibama fort, ſituated at the confluence of the Couſſa, and Talpouſe, both very conſiderable rivers; on which and their branches are the chief ſettlements of the upper Creek Indians.

The French fort at Alibama was evacuated 1763, and has not ſince been garriſoned. Above the confluence of Alibama and Mobille, the latter is called

Tombecbe River. the Tombecbe river, from the fort of Tombecbe ſituated on the Weſt ſide of it, about 96 leagues above the town of Mobille. The ſource of this river, is reckoned to be about 40 leagues higher up, in the country

country of the Chickaſaws. The fort of Tombecbe was taken poſſeſſion of by the Engliſh, but abandoned again in 1767, by order of the commandant of Penſacola. The river is navigable for ſloops and ſchooners about 35 leagues above the town of Mobille. The banks, where low, are partly overflowed in the rainy ſeaſons, which adds greatly to the ſoil, and adapts it particularly to the cultivation of rice. The ſides of the river are covered in many places with large canes, ſo thick that they are almoſt impenetrable; there is alſo plenty of remarkable large red and white cedar, cypreſs, elm, aſh, hickory and various kinds of oak. Several people have ſettled on this river, who find the ſoil to anſwer beyond expectation.

The lands near the mouth of the Mobille river are generally low: as you proceed upwards, the land grows higher, and may with great propriety be divided into three ſtages. Firſt, low rice lands on or near the banks of the river, of a moſt excellent quality. Secondly, what are called by the people of the country ſecond low grounds, or level flat cane lands about 4 or 5 feet higher than the low rice lands. And, thirdly the high upland or open country. The firſt or low lands extend about an half or 3 quarters of a mile from the river, and may almoſt every where be eaſily drained and turned into moſt excellent rice fields, and are capable of being laid under water at almoſt all ſeaſons of the year. They are a deep black mud or ſlime, which have in a ſucceſſion of time been accumulated, or formed by the overflowing of the river.

The ſecond low grounds being, in general, formed by a regular riſing of about 4 or 5 feet higher than the low lands, appears to have been originally the edge of the river. This ſecond claſs or kind of land is in general extremely rich and covered with large timber and thick ſtrong canes, extending in width upon

upon an average three quarters of a mile, and in general a perfect level. It is excellent for all kinds of grain, and well calculated for the culture of indigo, hemp, flax or tobacco.

At the extremity of these second grounds, you come to what is called the high or upland, which is covered with pine, oak and hickory, and other kinds of large timber. The soil is of a good quality, but much inferior to the second or low land. It answers well for raising Indian corn, potatoes, and every thing else that delights in a dry light soil. Further out in the country again, on the West side of this river, you come to a pine barren, with extensive reed swamps and natural meadows or savannahs which afford excellent ranges of innumerable herds of cattle.

On the East of the river Mobille, towards the river Alabama, is one entire extended rich cane country, not inferior perhaps to any in America.

Whenever portages are made between the Mobille and Cherokee river, or their branches, which are probably but a few miles apart, the Mobille will be the first river for commerce, (the Mississippi excepted) in this part of the world, as it affords the shortest and most direct communication to the sea.

Sea coast between Mobille and Pensacola.

The land to the eastward of Mobille Point, for about three leagues on the peninsula, is remarkable for alternate spaces of thick and thin trees. The Point is covered with a grove of thick but not very tall ones. There is a small lagoon about four leagues to the eastward of the Point, with hardly water at the entrance for a boat, the trees about which are very tall and thick. There are several hillocks to the eastward along shore, all the way from thence to the river Perdido, except at one place, about two-thirds of the way; where double lands may be seen over a lagoon which stretches to the westward of that river.

River and bay of Perdido.

The river Perdido empties itself into the sea about 10 leagues

10 leagues to the eaſtward of Mobille Point, and four leagues to the weſtward of the bar of Penſacola. The entrance is narrow, with a bar of ſix feet; but afterwards it widens conſiderably, ſtretching firſt to the N E upwards of a league, where it goes within a mile of the head of the great lagoon Weſt of the entrance of Penſacola harbour. From this the Perdido turns to the weſtward for three or four miles, where it forms a large bay. This river was formerly the boundary between Florida and Louiſiana, dividing the French and Spaniſh dominions.

Coaſt to Penſacola Bay.

There is nothing remarkable between the river Perdido and the bar of Penſacola, except the grand lagoon, which reaches near to the Perdido, with ſome ſtraggling trees on the peninſula, and the high red bank on the North ſide of it before mentioned. The ſoundings between the bars of Mobille and Penſacola are pretty regular, except near the bars, where there is deep water along ſhore, as they ſtretch out. It is neceſſary in nearing them, to keep a good offing till their reſpective marks are on for going over in the deepeſt channel. Immediately without them there is very deep water, from 7 to 12 and 13 fathoms, oozy bottom, and good holding ground. At the ſame diſtance from the ſhore between them, there is only ſix or eight fathoms; the bottom in general is fine white ſand with black ſpecks and broken ſhells: in ſome places a coarſer bottom, and in others oozy ſand.

Penſacola Harbour.

The Weſt end of the Iſland of St. Roſa ſtretches athwart the mouth of the harbour, and defends it from the ſea. It would be difficult to aſcertain the entrance, were it not for a remarkable red cliff which not only diſtinguiſhes the place, but is a mark for going over the bar in the deepeſt water.

Bar.

The bar of Penſacola is of a ſemicircular form, with the convex ſide to the ſea, and lies at a conſider-

able diſtance from the land, occaſioned, no doubt, by the conflict between the ſea and the bay. The bar runs in a curve from the Weſt breakers all the way to the eaſtward of the fort, or Signal Houſe on Roſe iſland, the outer end of it extending about a mile without the breakers; it is a flat, hard ſand, but the bottom on both ſides is ſoft, oozy ground. After entering on the bar in the deepeſt channel, the old fort on Roſe iſland bears N E 1-4 N two and a half miles; the middle or higheſt red cliff, N 1-2 W three and a half miles. In coming from the eaſtward or weſtward it is beſt to keep in ſix or ſeven fathoms, till the Weſt declivity of the higheſt part of the red cliff bears about N 1-2 W, as above; and then to continue that direction. The water ſhoals gradually from four to three and three-fourths fathoms; on the ſhoaleſt part it is 21 feet, then it regularly deepens and the bottom grows ſofter.

The latitude of the bar of Penſacola is 30 d 22 m North, and longitude 87 d 40 m Weſt from London, the variation of the compaſs near 5 d Eaſt.

Directions for paſſing thro' the Bay.

When over the bar in five or ſix fathoms, it is neceſſary to incline a little towards the weſtern reef, which has deep water cloſe to it, in order to avoid the 10 feet bank that there extends about half a mile S W from the point of Roſe iſland. As the line of direction for the deepeſt water over the bar leads juſt over the Weſt point of this bank, therefore it is proper to keep within one and a half or two cables length of the breakers (on the North end of which there are two dry ſandy keys) till the Weſt point of Roſe iſland is open with the ſtraggling trees to the ſouthward of Deer Point, at the entrance of St. Roſa channel, when one muſt haul up to the eaſtward between them clear of the 10 feet bank. There is a narrow channel of 13 feet between this bank and the point of Roſe iſland. There is alſo a ſhoal ſtretching in a

ſweep

ſweep from the red cliff towards the above mentioned ſandy key, therefore care muſt be taken not to ſhut in Tartar Point with Deer Point; but as the ſoundings are regular, there is no fear, unleſs there be little wind, with the tide of ebb, which ſets directly on this ſhoal, and in that caſe it is neceſſary to anchor in time.

Within Tartar Point the bay is about five or ſix miles broad, ſtretching to the North-eaſt towards the town; which is ſituated on the main land, about eight miles from Roſe iſland. From thence the bay turns more to the eaſtward, and is divided into two large branches or arms; one of which continues to the eaſtward about 18 miles from Penſacola, and the other to the northward nearly the ſame diſtance, from three to five miles broad.

Between Tartar Point and Penſacola there are two large lagoons, the ſouthermoſt of which runs behind the red cliff.

All the Weſt ſide of the bay, which forms a ſweep towards the town, is ſhoal for upwards of half a mile off ſhore, but the ſoundings are regular to it. There is no danger in the bay between Penſacola and Roſe iſland, except a ſhoal that runs from Deer Point, which ought to be attended to in working up or down the harbour. It is the more dangerous, as there is no warning given by the ſoundings; for from ſix fathoms, in a few caſts of the lead, you have but as many feet. It runs more than half a mile to the weſtward from the point. The governor's houſe in the fort bears from the extremity of it N 1-2 E three and a half miles, and Engliſh Point N N E 1-4 E five miles. The beſt anchorage for large veſſels is juſt a-breaſt of the town, in four fathoms, about one-third of a mile off ſhore; taking care not to bring the governor's houſe more to the weſtward than N W 1-4 W, on account of a ſhoal that runs off from

Indian

Indian Point at the Eaſt end of the town. As the tides in that offing run nearly Eaſt and Weſt, ſhips ſhould be moored accordingly.

Diſcovery of Penſacola.

The bay of Penſacola, was firſt diſcovered by Pamphilio de Narvaez in 1525*. After him, ſeveral other Spaniſh adventurers viſited it, who gave it different names; as Porta da Anchuſe, Bahia de St. Maria, &c. But Penſacola was the proper name of it among the Indians, which it will henceforth probably retain. The firſt eſtabliſhment the Spaniards made here was in 1696; when Don Andrea de Arrivola was appointed governor of this province, which then comprehended a very large tract of land, on the gulph of Mexico. He built a ſmall ſtockado, which he called fort St. Charles, with a church, &c. juſt by the red cliff at the entrance of the harbour.

This place was taken in the year 1719, by the French from Mobille. Penſacola fell at that time an eaſy prey, having only about 150 men to defend it. Shortly afterwards it was retaken by the Spaniards, who were again diſpoſſeſſed by the French in the ſame year.

The ſecond time the French made themſelves maſters of it, they kept poſſeſſion till the year 1722, when it was reſtored to the crown of Spain by treaty. The Spaniards in the interim removed to St. Joſeph's bay. About the year 1726, they built a ſmall town on the Weſt ſide of Roſe iſland, near the preſent fort, or ſignal houſe, which was originally conſtructed by them, but greatly improved by General Haldimand. The ſettlement remained there till about the year 1754; but being then partly overflowed in a gale of wind, the town was removed to the place where it now ſtands. After this country was ceded to the Engliſh by the peace of 1762, many places were pointed out as conveniently.

* But the Florida coaſt was previouſly diſcovered by Sebaſtian Cabot in 1497, and by John Ponce de Leon in 1512.

veniently ſituated for the purpoſe of building a town; but on due examination, the preſent ſituation was generally preferred, and the preſent town regularly laid out in the beginning of the year 1765.

Deſcription of the Town of Penſacola.

The town of Penſacola is of an oblong form, and lies almoſt parallel to the beach. It is about a mile in length, and a quarter of a mile in breadth, but contracts at both ends. At the Weſt end is a fine rivulet, from which veſſels are ſupplied with water. The preſent fort was built by the writer of this narrative in 1775, with cedar pickets, with 4 block houſes at proper diſtances, which defend or flank the works. It takes up a large ſpace of ground juſt in the middle of the town, which it divides in a manner into two ſeparate towns, and can be of no great ſervice towards the defence of the place, in caſe an attack be made on it, either by the natives or a civilized enemy.

The town of Penſacola is ſurrounded by two pretty large brooks of water, which take their riſe under Gage hill, a ſmall mount behind the town, and diſcharge themſelves into the bay, one at each extremity of the town.

The town and fort of Penſacola, ſurrendered to the arms of his Catholic Majeſty, in the year 1781, and with them the whole province of Weſt Florida became ſubject to the king of Spain, as before mentioned.

The hopes of a Spaniſh trade induced many people to ſettle here, at a great expence, but it did not anſwer their expectation. The principal objects ought to be the Indian trade, indigo, cotton, rice, hemp, tobacco and lumber, theſe being the natural produce of the country. Tho' Penſacola ſtands in a very ſandy ſituation, yet with pains the gardens produce great plenty of vegetables. Fruit trees, ſuch as orange, fig, and peach trees are here in perfection. And the bay abounds with a variety of fine fiſh.

About

About a mile to the eaſtward of Penſacola, between it and the Engliſh point, is the Eaſt lagoon, which after turning to the N W 4 or 5 miles, receives the Six Mile Brook. This is a pretty little winding ſtream, on the Eaſt ſide of which is an iron mine, where a large natural magnet was found. There is a fine mineral ſpring of the Chalybeate kind, near the mouth of the lagoon, of which there are ſeveral others in this country.

Campble Town.

From Engliſh point, the bay ſtretches to the northward. On the Weſt ſide, near the mouth of the river Eſcambia, lies Campble Town, a ſettlement of French proteſtants, about 10 miles from Penſacola by land, and 13 by water. The ſpot on which it ſtands is high, and a very light ſoil; but its ſituation being near to the marſhes, it is thereby rendered unhealthy, and has been the means of carrying off many of the inhabitants who were ſent out in 1766, and were for ſometime ſupported by government, in order to manufacture ſilk; but either for want of proper management, or other reaſons, nothing of that kind was attempted, and the place is ſince abandoned and the town deſtroyed.

River Eſcambia.

The river Eſcambia, the moſt conſiderable that falls into the bay of Penſacola, empties itſelf near the head of the North branch, about 12 or 15 miles from Penſacola, through ſeveral marſhes, and channels, which have a number of iſlands between them, that are overflowed when the water is high. There is a ſhoal near the entrance, and veſſels that draw more than 5 or 6 feet cannot be carried into it, even through the deepeſt channel; but there is from 2 to 4 fathoms afterwards. I aſcended it with a boat upwards of 80 miles, where from the depth of water it appeared to be navigable for pettiaugers many miles further. It is uncertain where the ſource of this river is; but ſuppoſed to be at a conſiderable diſtance, and is very winding in its courſe. The

The lands in general on each ſide of the river, are rich low or ſwamp, admirably adapted for the culture of rice or corn, as may ſuit the planter beſt; and what gives theſe low lands a ſuperiority over many others, is the great number of rivulets that fall into this river from the high circumjacent country, which may eaſily be led over any part of, or almoſt all the rice lands, at any ſeaſon of the year whatever. Near the mouth of this river are a great number of iſlands, ſome of very conſiderable extent, and not inferior for rice to any in America. The ſettlements made by Meſſieurs Tait and Mitchell, Captain Johnſon, Mr. M'Kinnon and ſome others, are very evident proofs of this aſſertion, who, in the courſe of two years from their firſt ſettlement, had nearly cleared all the expences they had been at in making very conſiderable eſtabliſhments; and I am well aſſured would entirely have done it in another year, had not the Spaniards taken poſſeſſion of the country.

Remarks on the lands upon the Eſcambia, and near Penſacola in Weſt Florida.

Further up the river, we meet with other iſlands, having much higher banks than thoſe below, very fit for raiſing Indian corn, or pulſe of all kinds, with a ſufficient proportion of rice land on them alſo. The large iſland on which Mr. Marſhall made his ſettlement, nearly oppoſite the old ſtockaded fort, about 28 miles from Penſacola by land and 40 by water, is the uppermoſt iſland of any note in the river Eſcambia, and is, without doubt, in point of fertility of ſoil, equal to any thing to be met with in the country. The weſterly part of this laſt mentioned iſland is high, and not ſubject to be overflown, unleſs in remarkable high freſhes, and then only ſome particular low parts of it, the reſt is high and well ſecured againſt floods; the eaſtern part of it is low and liable to be overflowed at ſome times of the year; the high land extends from about a mile, to a mile and a half from the weſtermoſt branch of the river that ſurrounds it, and

is

is equal to any on the Miſſiſſippi, Amit, or Comit. A more advantageous place for ſmall ſettlements than this, is not to be met with any where near Penſacola.

The country on each ſide of the river above this iſland is higher, and as the water is confined in one channel, forms a moſt beautiful river, with great plenty of good low lands on each ſide of it for many miles up. The low lands generally extend from a mile and a half to two miles from the banks of the river, and ſome places more, when we come to a fine high pine country, intermixed with oak and hickory land. There are, on both ſides of this river, a number of riſing grounds or bluffs, which afford delightful proſpects on the river, and would be elegant ſituations for gentlemens ſeats. The low lands and iſlands abound with great quantities of white and red oak for ſtaves, which anſwer well for the Weſt-India market, and an inexhauſtible quantity of cypreſs for lumber and ſhingles, together with plenty of red and white cedar for building. The open country, or high lands bordering on theſe low rich lands are generally pine, but of a quality ſuperior to moſt other pine countries, having generally a good ſoil for five or ſix inches deep, and well adapted for raiſing corn, beans, peas, turnips, potatoes, &c.

Perhaps there is no country more beautifully diverſified with hills and dales, nor more plentifully ſupplied with fine ſtreams, than that which borders on the low lands upon this river. But what, in a very particular manner, recommends this part of Weſt-Florida, is the fine and extenſive ranges for cattle which are ſo frequently to be met with here; it being very common for an ordinary planter to have 200 heads and ſome 1000 heads, within the vicinity of Penſacola. There is ſcarcely a ſtream in theſe parts but what has water ſufficient for ſaw-mills, and the country abounds with excellent timber for planks or lumber of all kinds.

The

The air is pure and healthy, and the planters and negroes enjoy a good ſtate of health the year round. The Indians emphatically call it, on account of the fine ſtreams of water every where to be met with, *the ſweet water country*. Great plenty of fiſh is to be found in this river, and all kinds of wild game are to be met with in great abundance.

With regard to the face of the country between the Eſcambia and Penſacola, it is varied with vallies and riſing grounds. At about 20 miles from Penſacola the ſoil grows better than it is at the town; the vallies are covered with graſs or canes, interſperſed with thickets of laurel, myrtle, and caſina. There is generally a rivulet running through each of them, either towards the Perdido or Eſcambia. The riſing grounds are chiefly covered with pines, oak, and hickory.

The North branch of the bay of Penſacola is only navigable for ſmall veſſels. It was formerly well ſettled on each ſide. The middle land between the North bay and the Ouyavalana, or Yellow Water, a branch of the Eaſt bay, abounds with large tall pines fit for maſts, yards, &c.

Middle River.

The Yellow Water, or Middle river, enters the Eaſt branch of the bay at the N E corner, and after going about five or ſix leagues up the country, the eaſtern branch ends in a baſon or lake at the bottom of a riſing ground, but the weſtern branch I have aſcended ſome leagues further. There are ſeveral ſmall iſlands near the entrance of this river, which produce cypreſs and ſmall cedars, but the ſoil is indifferent.

East River.

The Eaſt river empties into the bottom of the Eaſt branch, about ſix miles from the Middle river. It is about a quarter of a mile broad for 2 leagues, and then contracts to the breadth of 30 or 40 feet. This river comes from the caſtward, running nearly paral-

ſel to St. Roſes channel, and its ſource is about 16 miles from its entrance into the bay.

The peninſula between the bay of Penſacola and St. Roſes channel, which is from 1 to 3 or 4 miles broad, is in general very poor ſandy ſoil. It produces, in ſome places, large pines and live oak.

Roſe Iſland. Roſe iſland extends along the coaſt, for the ſpace of near 50 miles, and is no where above half a mile broad. It is very remarkable for its white ſandy hummocks, and ſtraggling trees here and there. There is a clump of 4 tall trees cloſe together, which, at a diſtance, appears like one, about 18 miles from the Weſt end, and another of the ſame kind about a league further to the eaſtward. There are likewiſe ſeveral hummocks, more eaſy to remark than deſcribe, but an attentive perſon, after once or twice ſailing along, can be at no loſs to know what part of the coaſt he falls in with.

The peculiarity of the appearance of Roſe iſland from the ſea, and the deep ſoundings all along it, are of great ſervice to know the coaſt: there are 9 or 10 fathoms in ſome places, within a mile or two of the ſhore; and, when a frigate is within 16 or 17 fathoms, the tops of the trees on the main land may be deſcried from the quarter deck. The bottom is generally fine white ſand, with broken ſhells, and black ſpecks, but in one place off the Eaſt end of Roſe iſland, out of ſight of land, the bottom is of a coarſe gravel, mixed with coral. This ought particularly to be attended to, as it is the only ſpot with that kind of ſoundings on the coaſt: it is of a conſiderable extent, and there are from 20 to 30 and 40 fathoms on it, or more. There is indeed a coral bottom off the bay of Eſperito Sancto, and ſome other parts on the coaſt of Eaſt Florida, but theſe generally begin in 7 or 8 fathoms, within ſight of land; from which and the difference of latitude, one cannot be miſtaken for the other.

This

This is a very extenſive bay, ſtretching about 30 miles to the north-eaſt, and is from 4 to 6 miles broad. There is a bar before it with only 7 or 8 feet where deepeſt. But afterwards there is 16 or 17 feet, as far as the red bluff on the main land. The channel between this bluff and the Eaſt part of Roſe iſland is but narrow, and a little further on, towards the bay, it is choaked up with a large ſhoal in ſome places dry, the deepeſt water on it is only 4 or 5 feet; ſo that nothing but very ſmall veſſels can enter this bay from the ſea, and the channel between Roſe iſland and the main, is juſt ſufficient for boats or pettiaugers. Bay of St. Roſa.

On the North ſide of St. Roſe's bay, almoſt oppoſite to the entrance from the ſea, there are three pretty large branches, which ſtretch ſeveral miles: the weſtermoſt, which is the largeſt, is again ſubdivided into ſmaller branches, all which have deep water. The other two receive each a conſiderable rivulet of clear water with a rapid ſtream. On the banks there is plenty of cedar, &c.

The largeſt river that falls into St. Roſe's bay is the Chacta-hatcha or Pea river, which runs from the N E, and enters the bottom of the bay through ſeveral mouths, but ſo ſhoal that only a ſmall boat or canoe can paſs them. I aſcended this river about 25 leagues, where there is ſettled a ſmall party of the Couſſac Indians. The banks of this river, in point of ſoil and timber, reſembles very much thoſe of the river Eſcambia. Chacta-hatcha River.

Between the bays of St. Roſa, and St. Andrews, the coaſt runs E S E, and S E by E, for the ſpace of 52 miles, the ſoundings much the ſame as off Roſe iſland; it is to be obſerved that the trees are thick, and come pretty cloſe to the ſhore. There are likewiſe ſome red hummocks as well as white, which with the trenching of the land may be of ſervice to know that part of the coaſt. Coaſt between the bays of St. Roſa and St. Andrews.

The

St. Andrew's Bay.

The entrance of St. Andrew's bay is between a ſmall iſland on the right hand, and a narrow peninſula on the left. There is a high white ſand hill, which is a remarkable object from the ſea: it lies in latitude 30 d 06 m North, and about 10 leagues to the North-weſt of Cape Blaiſe. From the point of the peninſula, there is a large ſhoal extending for more than two thirds of the way towards the iſland; which is 2 miles diſtant, leaving a channel of 17 or 18 feet, but it has a ſmall bar of 13 feet.

There is anchorage juſt within St. Andrew's iſland in 3 fathoms and an half, but it is more commodious within the point of the peninſula in 5 fathoms, with the advantage of freſh water, which is eaſily got by digging.

St. Andrew's bay runs firſt to the N W, nearly parallel to the ſea ſhore, for 3 leagues; then it turns to the eaſtward for about a league, when a large branch breaks off to the S E. The main body continues to the northward for 2 leagues, when it is divided into two large branches, one going to the N E, and the other to the weſtward. This laſt, which is the leaſt, reaches within a few miles of St. Roſa's bay. The country between them is low and marſhy, and full of freſh water ponds.

St. Andrew's bay is navigable for any veſſels that can go over the bar. There is a large ſhoal with only 3 or 4 feet, about half way up the firſt reach, but there is a deep channel on the Weſt ſide of it, and afterwards there is from 3 to 7 fathoms all over the bay. There are no rivers of any conſequence, nor can the ſoil immediately on the bay be much commended; there is however great plenty of large pines, live oak, and cedar.

Coaſt from St. Andrew's iſland to the bay of St. Joſeph.

From St. Andrew's iſland to the bay of St. Joſeph's, the middle of the coaſt between them runs about E S E near 15 miles, with a ſhoal all the way between them

them near the ſhore, which eaſily appears, it being of a whiteiſh colour. There is from 12 to 18 feet on the greateſt part of it, except towards the mouth of St. Joſeph's bay, where there is a bank near the middle, between St. Joſeph's point and the main land, with only 7 or 8 feet, and 4 fathoms juſt within; but there is a very good channel with 3 fathoms on the bar, between that bank and St. Joſeph's point, on the right hand going in.

St. Joſeph's Bay.

In going into St. Joſeph's bay it is requiſite to keep within a cable and a half or two cables length of the peninſula, in five or four and a half fathoms, as it ſhoals regularly towards the point, from which a ſpit of ſand runs out a little way; and when in three fathoms to haul round gradually, ſtill keeping near two cables length off ſhore. The bar is narrow, and immediately within it there is from four to ſix and a half fathoms ſoft ground. The end of the peninſula forms two or three points, from each of which a ſmall ſpit runs off for a little diſtance, which may be known by the diſcoloured water on them. This is an excellent harbour; in which the beſt place for anchoring is juſt within the peninſula, oppoſite to ſome ruins that ſtill remain of the village of St. Joſeph. There the Spaniards had a poſt, which they abandoned about the year 1700, but they took poſſeſſion of it again in 1719. There is very good water to be got here by digging, and on the North ſide of the bay are two or three ſmall freſh water brooks, oppoſite to which are three or four fathoms cloſe to the ſhore. In the year 1717, the French erected a fort which they called Crœvcœur, a mile to the northward of a brook in St. Joſeph's bay, oppoſite to the point of the peninſula, but abandoned in the next year, on the repreſentation of the governor of Penſacola that it belonged to his Catholic Majeſty. The bay is nearly of the figure of a horſe-ſhoe, being about twelve miles

miles in length, and ſeven acroſs where broadeſt. Towards the bottom of it are a few ſmall iſlands, and the water is ſo ſhoal that a boat can hardly go near the ſhore.

The ſoil on the North ſide of the bay is very ſandy, but there are ſome ſpots near the ruins of St. Joſeph's that are covered with a kind of verdure, and produce plenty of grapes, ſome of which are large, of a purple colour, and pretty good to the taſte: they were probably planted there by the Spaniards. There are here likewiſe ſome ſmall cabbage trees, of which there are great numbers on St. George's iſlands beyond Cape Blaiſe, and on all the coaſt to the eaſtward. Theſe cabbage trees do not grow above the height of 20 feet; the bud, or unformed leaves in the heart being boiled has ſomewhat the taſte of cabbage, but is more delicious.

A very good eſtabliſhment might be made here for a fiſhery, as the ſettlers might make ſalt on the ſpot to cure the baſs, rock, cod, grouper, red mullet, and other kinds of fiſh, which are here in great abundance; and, when well cured, are little if at all inferior to thoſe brought from the northward.

Peninſula between St. Joſeph's and Cape Blaiſe.

The peninſula between St. Joſeph's and Cape Blaiſe is a narrow ſlip of land, in ſome places not above a quarter of a mile broad. The gaps here and there upon it, and the water in the bay appearing through them from the maſt-head, together with the trenching of the land about NNW, and SSE, for near four leagues, make it eaſily known. The trees about Cape Blaiſe are very thick, and there is a remarkable ſingle tree, like a buſh, that ſtands without the others towards the point. In caſe of an eaſterly wind, there is ſafe anchorage oppoſite the thickeſt trees in ſix or ſeven fathoms, about one or two miles off ſhore; and there is a large pond of freſh water near the beach, about three or four miles to the eaſtward of Cape Blaiſe.

Blaiſe. There is alſo a remarkable gap among the trees between the ſea and the bottom of St. Joſeph's bay, where is a narrow iſthmus not above 5 or 600 yards broad.

Cape Blaiſe. Cape Blaiſe, where it ends in a low point near two miles from the trees, in latitude 29 d 40 m N, is not only remarkable from the aforeſaid circumſtances, but likewiſe on account of the irregular ſoundings that are found a great way out at ſea from it. There is a ſpit of land that runs about two miles from the point in a S S E direction; and there are ſeveral banks of three or four fathoms, at the diſtance of ſix or ſeven miles, with deep water from ſeven to ten fathoms between them. There are even ſome banks of five and ſix fathoms almoſt out of ſight of land from the maſt-head; but though they may alarm a ſtranger, there is no danger in going near enough to make the land plain.

Cape St. George's. There is another cape or point of land about ſix leagues to the eaſtward of Cape Blaiſe, being an elbow of the largeſt of St. George's iſlands, nearly oppoſite to the river Apalachicola. This point lies in 29 d 38 m N. There is a large ſhoal running out from it a conſiderable way, but how far has not yet been aſcertained. The coaſt between it and Cape Blaiſe forms a kind of hollow bay, with deep ſoundings and a ſoft bottom. There are two iſlands to the North-weſt of St. George's cape; that neareſt to it is ſmall, and remarkable for a clump of ſtraggling trees on the middle of it; the other is a pretty large iſland of a triangular form, and reaches within three leagues of Cape Blaiſe, having a paſſage at each end of it for ſmall craft into the bay, between theſe iſlands and the river Apalachicola: but this bay is full of ſhoals and oyſter banks, and not above two or three feet water at moſt in any of the branches of that river.

General Obſervations. Having thus given an account of the ſea-coaſt of Weſt-

Weſt-Florida, I ſhall conclude with a few general obſervations on the ſeaſons, winds, tides, &c. As moſt of the bars lie a conſiderable way without the entrance of the bays and rivers, the water ſeldom riſes or falls on them above a foot; but in the bays or channels it riſes two or three feet. The tides are irregular, and ſeem to be governed in a great meaſure by the winds; but not always by that wind which blows directly on the ſpot. Though there is generally about 12 hours flood and 12 hours ebb, yet it often happens that there are two tides of each in the ſpace of 24 hours; and ſometimes the tide will run one way for the ſpace of 18 hours together, and only five or ſix hours the contrary, ſo that nothing can be ſaid with certainty on this ſubject. By reaſon of the trade winds blowing in the Atlantic ocean, and continuing into the bay of Mexico, it is natural to ſuppoſe that the water, being there hemmed in, will of courſe force a paſſage out where it finds the leaſt reſiſtance; which is through the gulph of Florida. From this general principle it ſhould follow, that on the coaſt of Weſt-Florida it ought to run from Weſt to Eaſt, which in ſome meaſure would account for the ſhoals being found at the Eaſt end of all the iſlands on this coaſt, and deep water on the Weſt ends; but in a large bay or Mediterranean ſea like that of Mexico, where there are ſo many rivers, bays, &c. the general courſe of the current muſt be greatly diſturbed. From this proceeds that irregularity which is obſervable on the North ſide of the bay of Mexico, where the tide of ebb always ſets to the caſtward near the ſhore, and the flood from the ſouthward or S E: what it may do in the offing has not yet been examined, nor will it be eaſily determined.

To the eaſtward of Cape Blaiſe, the general obſervations concerning the deep water at the Weſt end of

the

the iſlands and peninſulas, and vice verſa, do not ſeem always to hold good. Indeed, as far as has been examined of the Weſt part of Eaſt-Florida, it is a ſhoal a conſiderable way from the land, (and therefore ought to be known only to be avoided) except the bay of Eſperitu Sancto*, at the entrance of which, in the latitude 27d 8m, there is four fathoms and ſafe anchorage.

From the winds that prevail in general on this coaſt during the months of April, May, and to the middle of June, the weather is mild. The ſea and land breezes are pretty regular, and they generally continue ſo all the ſummer. In July, Auguſt, and moſt of September, there are frequent ſqualls, with much rain, thunder, and lightning; and ſometimes gales of wind from the South and South-weſt for ſeveral days together. From the middle of October to the end of March, the northerly winds prevail, which at times blow very hard during that ſeaſon; when the wind changes to the eaſtward or ſouthward of that point, it is commonly attended with cloſe, hazy, or foggy weather.

It ought to be obſerved in ſailing in the Gulph of Mexico, to be very careful of logs or driftwood in the night time; for when the waters of the Miſſiſſippi are high, that river diſgorges an immenſe number of large logs, or trees, which being driven by the winds and currents all over the gulph, may do conſiderable damage to veſſels under full ſail.

* The bay of Eſpiritu Sancto is ſituated on the Weſt coaſt of the province of Eaſt-Florida, in 27 deg. of North latitude. It has a good harbour, but the land all about that coaſt is very low, and cannot be ſeen from a ſhip's deck when in ſeven fathoms water. Several low ſandy iſlands and marſhes, covered with mangrove buſhes, lie before the main land. Here is the greateſt quantity of fiſh in the ſummer time imaginable, which may be catched with a ſeine, enough to load a ſhip, if the climate would admit of curing them, even in a few days.

Here is ſtone proper for building, on this coaſt. Alſo great plenty of deer, and ſome wild cattle. But the main land near the coaſt is in general ſandy and barren, and is intermixed in many places with vallies capable of improvement for ſtock of all ſorts. The bay and iſlands before the main land abound with fiſh and various ſorts of wild fowl.

I SHALL here ſubjoin ſome Remarks on the Tortugas, &c. as heretofore publiſhed by George Gauld, Eſquire.

AS a competent knowledge of the ſituation of the Dry Tortugas is abſolutely neceſſary for the navigation to and from the North ſide of the bay of Mexico, and from the Weſt-Indies through the Gulph of Florida, a few general remarks concerning them may not be unacceptable to the public at this time.

They conſiſt of ten ſmall iſlands, or keys, extending E N E and W S W for ten or eleven miles, at the diſtance of about thirty leagues from the neareſt part of the coaſt of Florida, forty from the iſland of Cuba; and fourteen leagues from the weſtermoſt of the Florida keys. They are all very low, but ſome of them covered with mangrove buſhes, and may be ſeen at four leagues diſtance. The ſouthweſtermoſt keys, which, in going from Penſacola, Mobille, or the Miſſiſſippi, is the corner to be turned, and coming from Cape Antonio the point to be avoided, lies in 24 d 32 m North latitude, and about 83 d 50 m Weſt longitude, from the Royal Obſervatory at Greenwich; the variation of the compaſs, by a medium of ſeveral obſervations, is ſeven degrees Eaſt. A reef of coral rocks runs about a quarter of a mile S W from theſe keys, the water on which is diſcoloured; and in general, wherever there is danger it may eaſily be ſeen from the maſt-head in the day time. There is a large bank of brown coral rocks, intermixed with white patches of ſand, about five or ſix miles to the weſtward of the Tortugas, with very irregular ſoundings from ſix to twelve fathoms; the bottom appears very plainly, and though it may be alarming to ſtrangers, yet there is no danger. You will find from thirteen to ſeventeen fathoms between this bank and the Tortugas.

If

If you are bound to the eaſtward, and meet with a ſtrong eaſterly gale, which is frequent there in the ſummer ſeaſon, you may ſafely come to an anchor in five or ſix fathoms, under the lee of the long ſandy iſland to the northward of the S W key, about a quarter of a mile off ſhore. The bank of ſoundings extends only about five or ſix leagues to the ſouthward of the Tortugas, but much farther to the weſtward, and all the way to the northward along the Florida ſhore. This is a lucky circumſtance for the ſafety of navigation in thoſe parts, as caution in ſoundings may prevent any danger in the night time; for the ſoundings are extremely regular all along this bank to the northward, almoſt to Cape Blaiſe, in latitude 29 d 41 m: ſo that by the latitude and depth of water, we generally know how far we are to the eaſtward or weſtward. There is a ſpace of ſeveral leagues together, from twenty to fifty fathoms, but from fifty or ſixty it deepens faſt to ſeventy, eighty, and ſoon after no ground.

From the bar of Penſacola to the Dry Tortugas the true courſe is S 30 d E 134 leagues, and therefore SE by S by the compaſs will carry you clear of them to the weſtward; but it will be both prudent and neceſſary to ſound frequently when you get into the latitude of 26 d and 25 m, and never ſtand in to leſs than thirty fathoms in the night time, till you are paſt the latitude of 24 d 30 m, when you may haul up S E by E or E S E, whieh will carry you near to the Havanna.

There is a broad channel over the bank to the eaſtward of the Tortugas, of ten to ſeventeen fathoms, which, in going to and from the coaſt of Weſt-Florida, &c. might occaſionally cut off a great deal of the diſtance; but that paſſage is by no means to be attempted, unleſs you can ſee the Tortugas diſtinctly, and keep within two or three leagues of the eaſtermoſt

eaſtermoſt of them, as there is a coral bank of only twelve feet at the diſtance of five leagues, and farther on towards Cayo Marques, the weſtermoſt of the Florida keys, there is a very dangerous and extenſive bank of quickſand, on many parts of which there are no more than four or five feet of water. It is of a remarkable white colour, and may be eaſily ſeen and avoided in the day time.

HAVING now finiſhed my intended narrative, I ſhall cloſe it with the following obſervations upon the probable conſequences that will ariſe to the United States of America, from the poſſeſſion of ſo extenſive a country, abounding with ſuch a variety of climate, ſoil, and productions; referring my reader for his further information upon the ſubject, to the Philoſophical Eſſays publiſhed in London in 1772, concerning the ſtate of the Britiſh empire on this continent.

There is ſome amuſement at leaſt in reflecting upon the vaſt conſequences, which ſome time or other muſt infallibly attend the ſettling of America. If we conſider the progreſs of the empires which have hitherto exiſted in the world, we ſhall find the ſhort duration of their moſt glorious periods, owing to cauſes which will not operate againſt that of North America. Thoſe empires were formed by conqueſt; a great many nations different in character, language and ideas, were by force jumbled into one heterogeneous power: it is moſt ſurpriſing that ſuch diſſonant parts ſhould hold together ſo long. But when the band of union was weakened, they returned to their original and natural ſeparation: language and national character formed many ſovereignties out of the former connected varieties. This, however, will be very different with North America. The habitable parts of which, including the dominions of Britain

and

and of Spain, North of latitude 30d, contain above 3,500,000 ſquare miles. It would be unneceſſary to remark, that this includes what at preſent does not belong to our North America. If we want it, I warrant it will ſoon be ours. This extent of territory is much greater than that of any empire that ever exiſted, as will appear by the following table.

	Square Miles.
The Perſian empire under Darius contained - - - - -	1,650,000
The Roman empire in its utmoſt extent	1,610,000
The Chineſe empire, - - - - -	1,749,000
The Great Mogul's, - - - - -	1,116,000

The Ruſſian empire, including all Tartary, is larger than any of theſe. But I might as well throw into the American ſcale the countries about the Hudſon's bay, for the one is as likely to be peopled as the other; whereas all I have taken in will aſſuredly be ſo. Beſides, North-America is actually peopling very faſt, which is far enough from being the caſe with the Ruſſian deſerts. Now the habitable part of what was once the Britiſh dominions alone in North-America, contains above 1,200,000 ſquare miles, or almoſt equal to any of the above. But the whole, as I before obſerved, is 3,500,000, or more than the Perſian and Roman empires together. In reſpect, therefore, to extent, and the means of maintaining numbers of people, it is ſuperior to all. But then comes the advantage which is deciſive of its duration. This immenſe continent will be peopled by perſons whoſe language and national character muſt be the ſame. Foreigners who may reſort to us, will be confounded by the general population, and the whole people, phyſically ſpeaking, one: ſo that thoſe ſeeds of decay, ſown in the very foundation of the ancient empires,

will

will have no exiſtence here. Further, the peopling of this vaſt tract from a nation renowned in trade, navigation and naval power, has occaſioned all the ideas of the original to be tranſplanted into the copy. And theſe advantages having been ſo long enjoyed, with the amazing and unparalleled ſituation for commerce between Europe, Aſia, and the great ſouthern continent; and America at the ſame time poſſeſſing, above other countries, the means of building, fitting out, and maintaining a great navy; the inhabitants of this potent empire, ſo far from being in the leaſt danger from the attacks of any other quarter of the globe, will have it in their power to engroſs the whole commerce of it, and to reign, not only lords of America, but to poſſeſs, in the utmoſt ſecurity, the dominion of ſea throughout the world, which their anceſtors enjoyed before them. None of the ancient empires, therefore, which fell a prey to the Tartars, nor the preſent one of China, can be compared to this of North-America, which, as ſurely as the land is now in being, will hereafter be trod by the firſt people the world ever knew.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Page 6, line 24, inſtead of *in* read *on* the Miſſiſſipi.
Page 10, line 36, inſtead of *on* read *in* ſaid latitude.
Page 29, line 19, inſtead of *this* read *their* value.
Page 31, line 16, inſtead of *the* read *though* ſtrong.
Page 33, line 27, inſtead of *port* read *poſt*.
Page 47, line 22, inſtead of *lake* read *a lake*.

TABLE of DISTANCES.

	Miles.
From the Balize or the Mouths of the Miſſiſſippi	
to the Detour aux Plaquemines, is - -	32
to beginning of the ſettlements - - -	20
to the Detour des Anglois - - -	35
to New Orleans - - - - -	18
to the villages of the Humas and Alibama Indians - - - - - -	60
to the Fourche de Chetimachas and Indian village of the ſame name - -	3
to the Conceſſion of Monſ. Paris - -	9
to the Ibberville - - - -	27
to Baton Rouge - - - -	18
to the ſettlement of Point Coupeé -	17
to upper end of this ſettlement where there is a village of Tunica Indians on the Eaſt ſide - - - - -	20
to the Chafalaya, the uppermoſt mouth of the Miſſiſſippi - - - -	30
to the River Rouge - - - -	3
to Fort Roſalie at the Natchez - -	56¼
to the Petit Goufre - - -	31½
to the Grand Goufre - - -	14
to the Yazou Cliffs - - -	39¾
to the River Yazou - - - -	7½
to the River Arkanſaw - - -	158¼
to the River St. Francis - - -	108
to the River and Heights of Margot -	70½
to the Chickaſaw River - - -	104½
to Mine au fer - - - -	67½
to the River Ohio - - - -	15
Total,	964½

7 105